THOSE WHO HUNT ELVES 5

CREATOR YU YAGAMI

YU YAGAMI
PRESENTS
Those who hunt elves

V

#18 An Art Museum Without Rival

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RUMBLE
RUMBLE
キュラキュラキュラ
RUMBLE

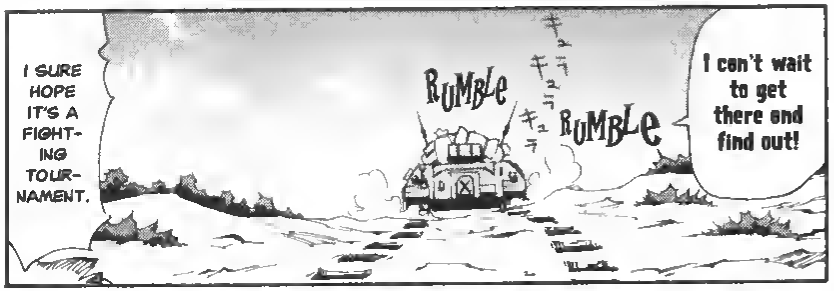
MAN, I'M STARVIN'.
ぐーきゅるるる
GROWWWL

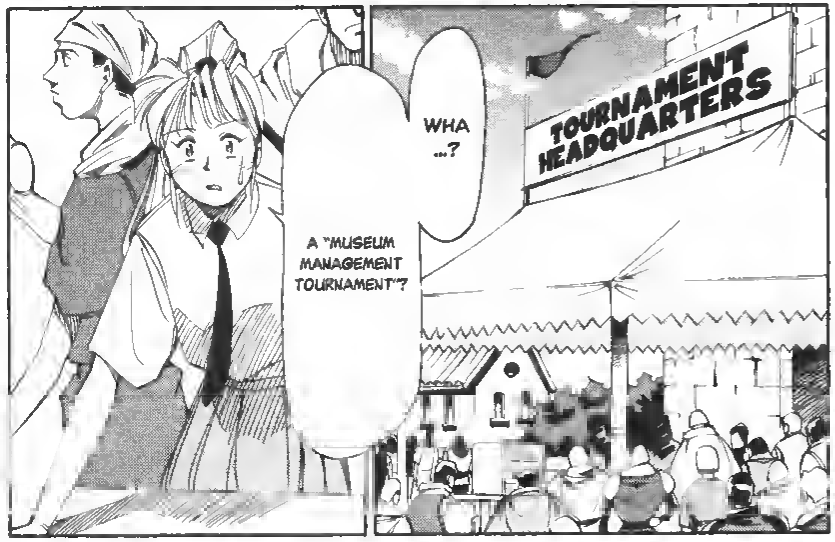
?!

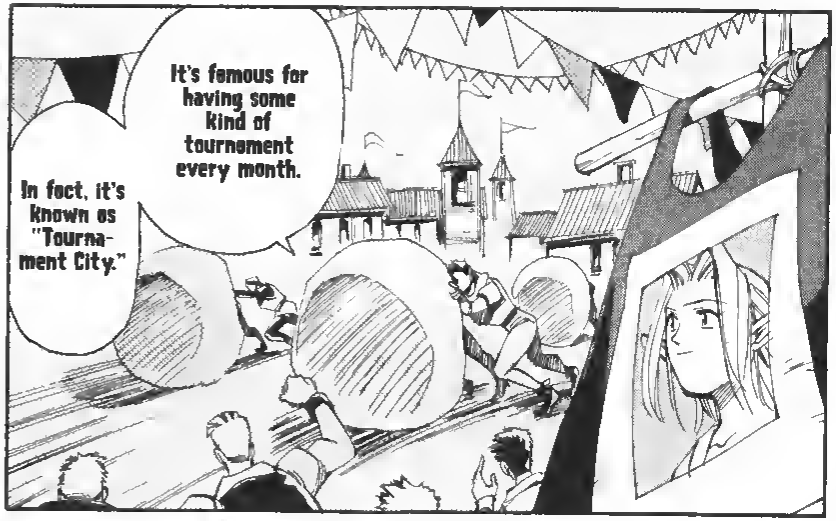
be able to make a LOT of money in the next town over.
We might...

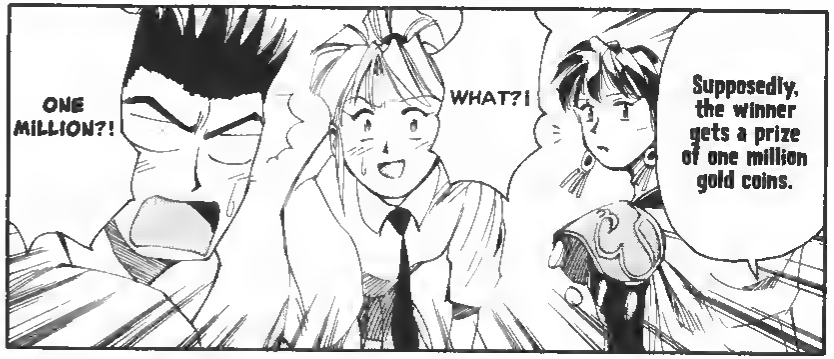
Hmm.
ISN'T THERE A WAY WE COULD MAKE A BUNCH OF MONEY QUICKLY?!
CRAP! HEY, CELCIA!

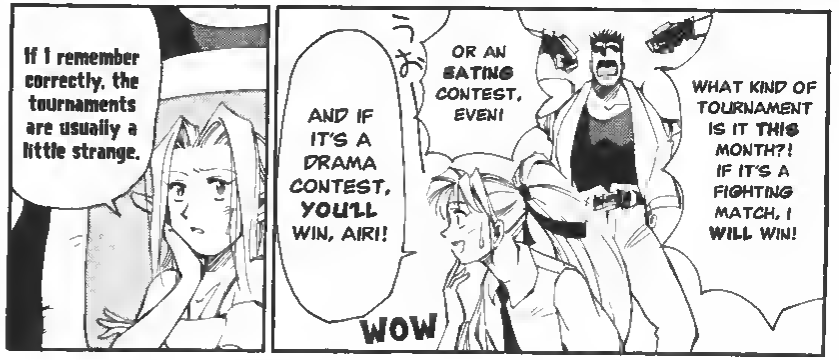
WELL, WE HAVEN'T HAD ANY WORK LATELY.
RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE
AND WE DON'T EVEN HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY BREAD!

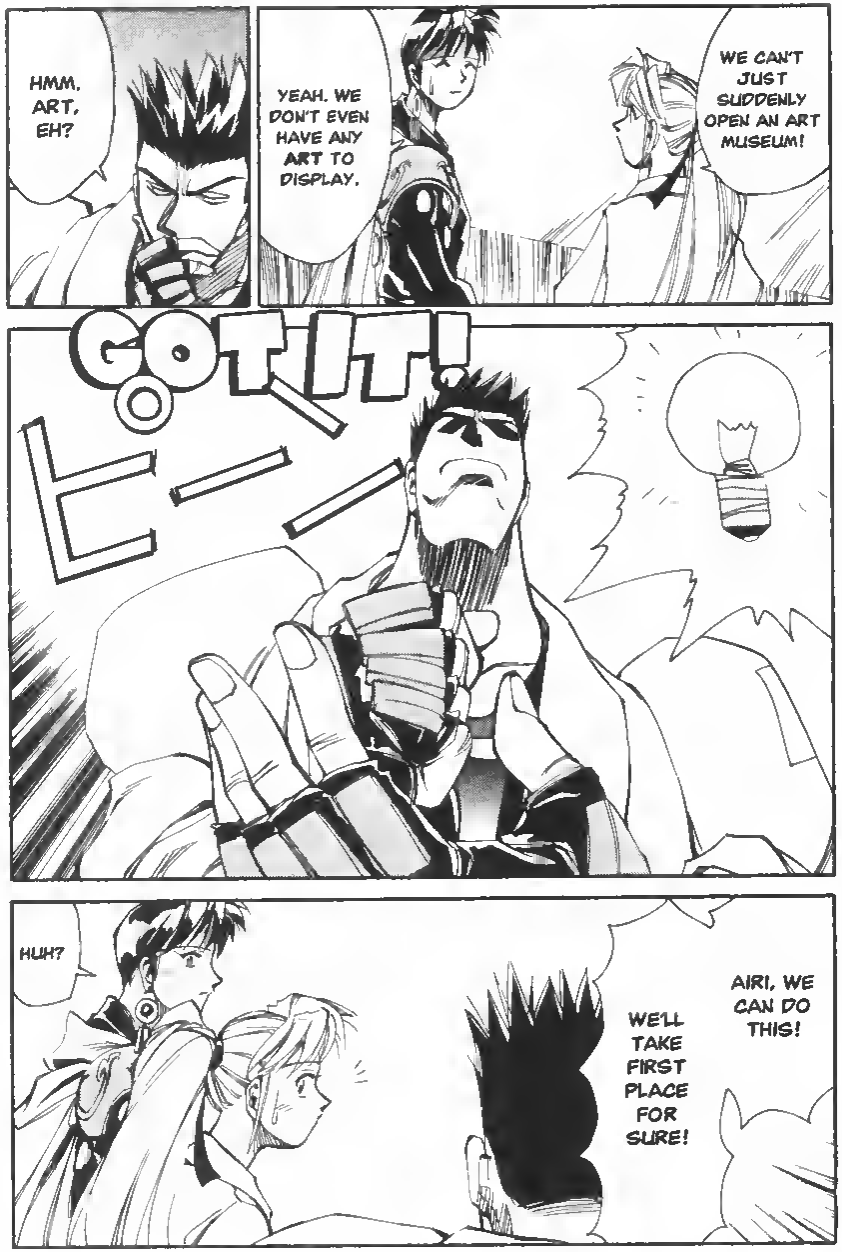

I SURE HOPE IT'S A FIGHTING TOURNAMENT.
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
I can't wait to get there and find out!


TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS
WHA ...?
A "MUSEUM MANAGEMENT TOURNAMENT"?


It's famous for having some kind of tournament every month.
In fact, it's known as "Tournament City."


ONE MILLION?!
WHAT?!
Supposedly, the winner gets a prize of one million gold coins.

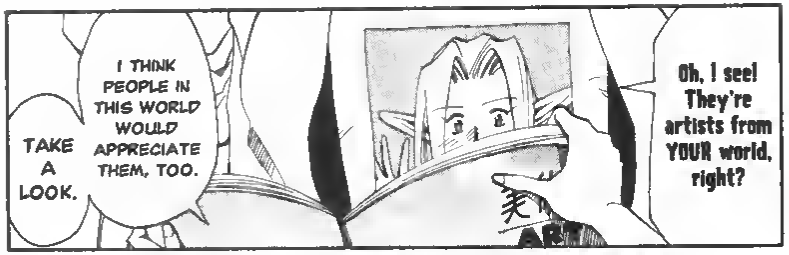

If I remember correctly, the tournaments are usually a little strange.
AND IF IT'S A DRAMA CONTEST, YOU'LL WIN, AIRI!
OR AN EATING CONTEST, EVEN!
WOW
WHAT KIND OF TOURNAMENT IS IT THIS MONTH?! IF IT'S A FIGHTING MATCH, I WILL WIN!


HMM. ART, EH?
YEAH. WE DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY ART TO DISPLAY.
WE CAN'T JUST SUDDENLY OPEN AN ART MUSEUM!
GOT IT!
トーン
HUH?
WE'LL TAKE FIRST PLACE FOR SURE!
AIRI, WE CAN DO THIS!

WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?
CORRECT. A MANAGEMENT COMPETITION.
UM, THIS IS AN ART MUSEUM **MANAGEMENT** COMPETITION? NOT AN ART CONTEST?
WHOEVER OBTAINS THE **HIGHEST GROSS INCOME** WITHIN A CERTAIN TIMEFRAME, WINS.
EACH PARTICIPANT SETS UP AN ART MUSEUM. THE DISPLAY AND ADMISSION FEE IS ENTIRELY UP TO THE CONTESTANTS.
UH, THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
WHY NOT COMPETE FOR YOURSELVES?
YOU WIN BASED ON **INCOME**, NOT THE NUMBER OF ADMISSIONS?

とおーん
WE'VE GOT OUR VERY OWN THREE-DIMENSIONAL DRAWING, "THE PLUCKY ELF"!
28
TA-DAA
What?!

HONESTLY
This idiot thinks he can put ME on display.
Why don't you talk to him?!
Did you HEAR that?
THOSE ONE MILLION GOLD COINS ARE OURS FOR THE TAKING!
がーん
SHOCK
Airi!!
WE'D LIKE TO SIGN UP.
RITSUKO'S GOT ANOTHER IDEA THAT'S SURE TO WIN!
DON'T WORRY, CELCIA!
RUSTLE RUSTLE
WELL,
IT'S NOT EXACTLY PLAYING BY THE RULES...
YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF ART ON YOU?
What?


TAKE A LOOK.
I THINK PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD WOULD APPRECIATE THEM, TOO.
Oh, I see! They're artists from YOUR world, right?

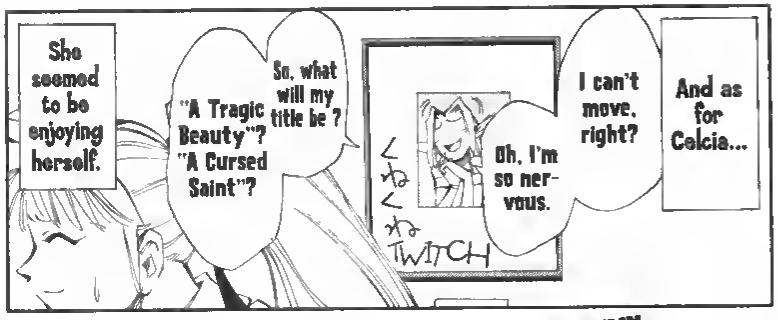
What is THIS?
PICASSO
Whoa...

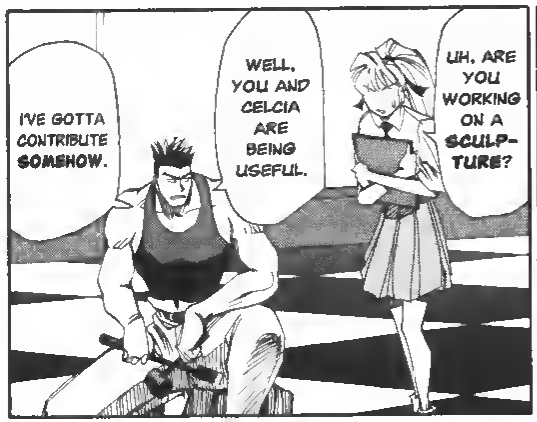
BAP
GOOD, THEN IT'S DECIDED! WE'LL DO THE ART MUSEUM AND MAKE TONS OF MONEY!
PLUS, CELCIA WILL BE OUR THREE-DIMENSIONAL PAINTING
Airi!!
SHOCK

AH-HAA!
Uh, what IS that?

TA-DAA
美術3
ART 3
BUT I DO HAVE MY HIGH SCHOOL ART TEXTBOOK!!

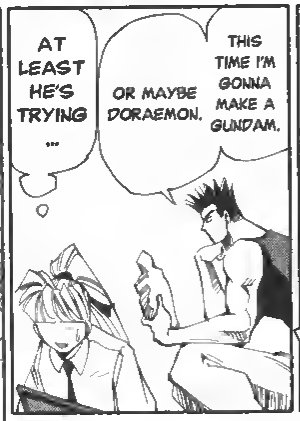
THIS BOOK IS FULL OF FAMOUS WORKS BY FAMOUS ARTISTS!
MICHELANGELO, RENOIR, CEZANNE, VAN GOGH, PICASSO.


She seemed to be enjoying herself.
"A Tragic Beauty"? "A Cursed Saint"?
So, what will my title be?
Oh, I'm so nervous.
TWITCH
I can't move, right?
And as for Celcia...


I'VE GOTTA CONTRIBUTE SOMEHOW.
WELL, YOU AND CELCIA ARE BEING USEFUL.
UH, ARE YOU WORKING ON A SCULPTURE?

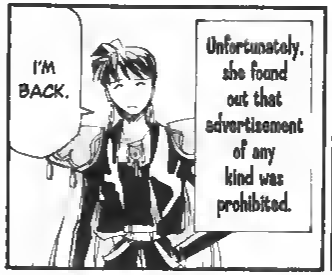
THUNK
?!
SHIT! I'VE GOTTA START ALL OVER AGAIN!

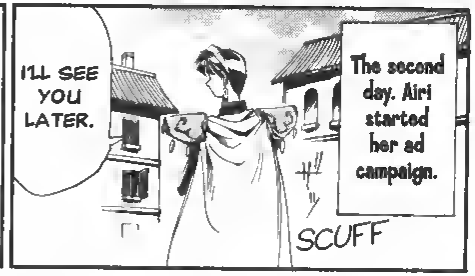
HUH?


AT LEAST HE'S TRYING ...
OR MAYBE DORAEMON.
THIS TIME I'M GONNA MAKE A GUNDAM.

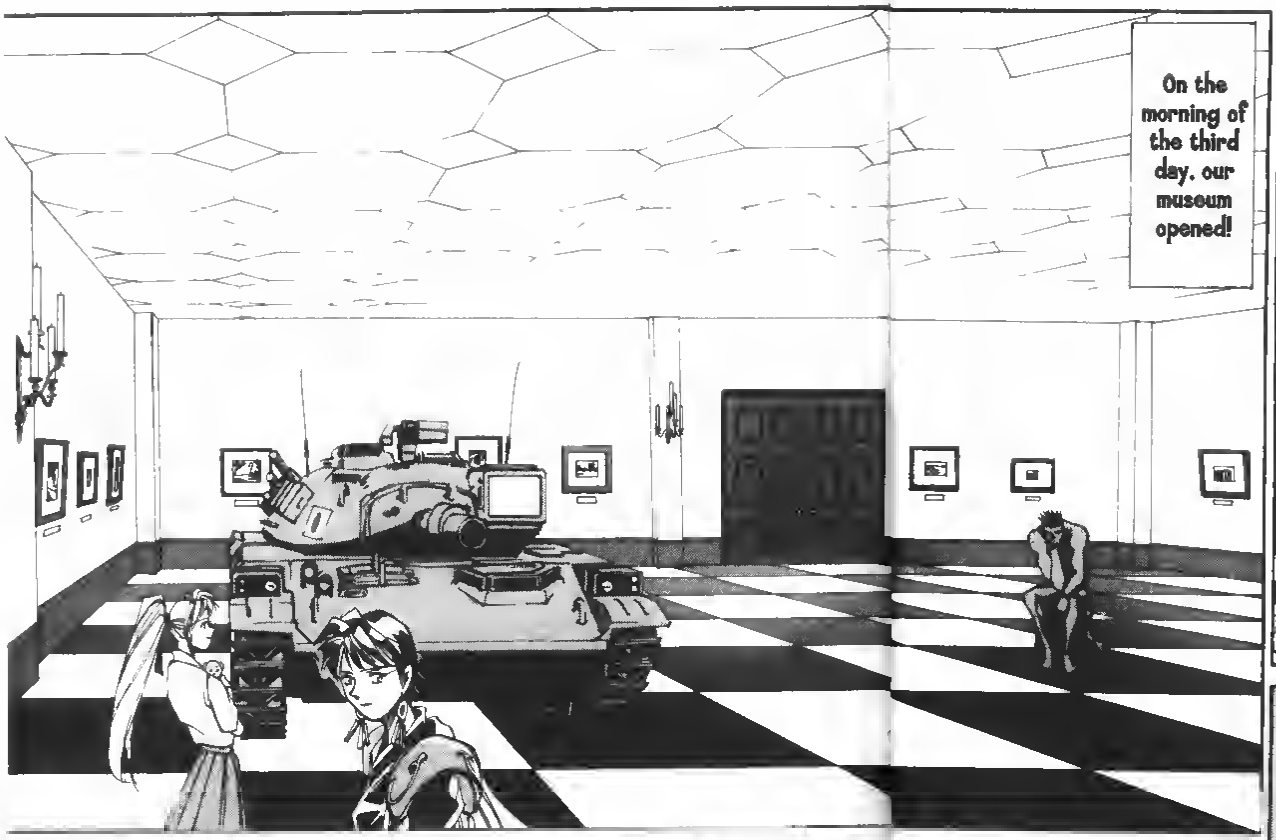
I'LL PROVE THAT I HAVE ARTISTIC TALENTS!!
YOU JUST WAIT AND SEE, AIRI!!
VGORR

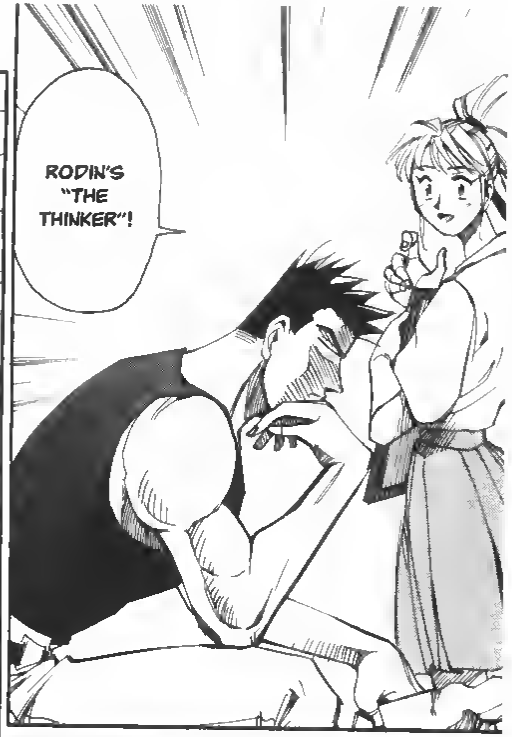
The first day of the tournament. By evening, we'd managed to lease a location for the art museum.


I'M BACK.
Unfortunately, she found out that advertisement of any kind was prohibited.


I'LL SEE YOU LATER.
The second day. Airi started her ad campaign.
SCUFF

I cut the pages from my art book and framed them.


On the morning of the third day, our museum opened!

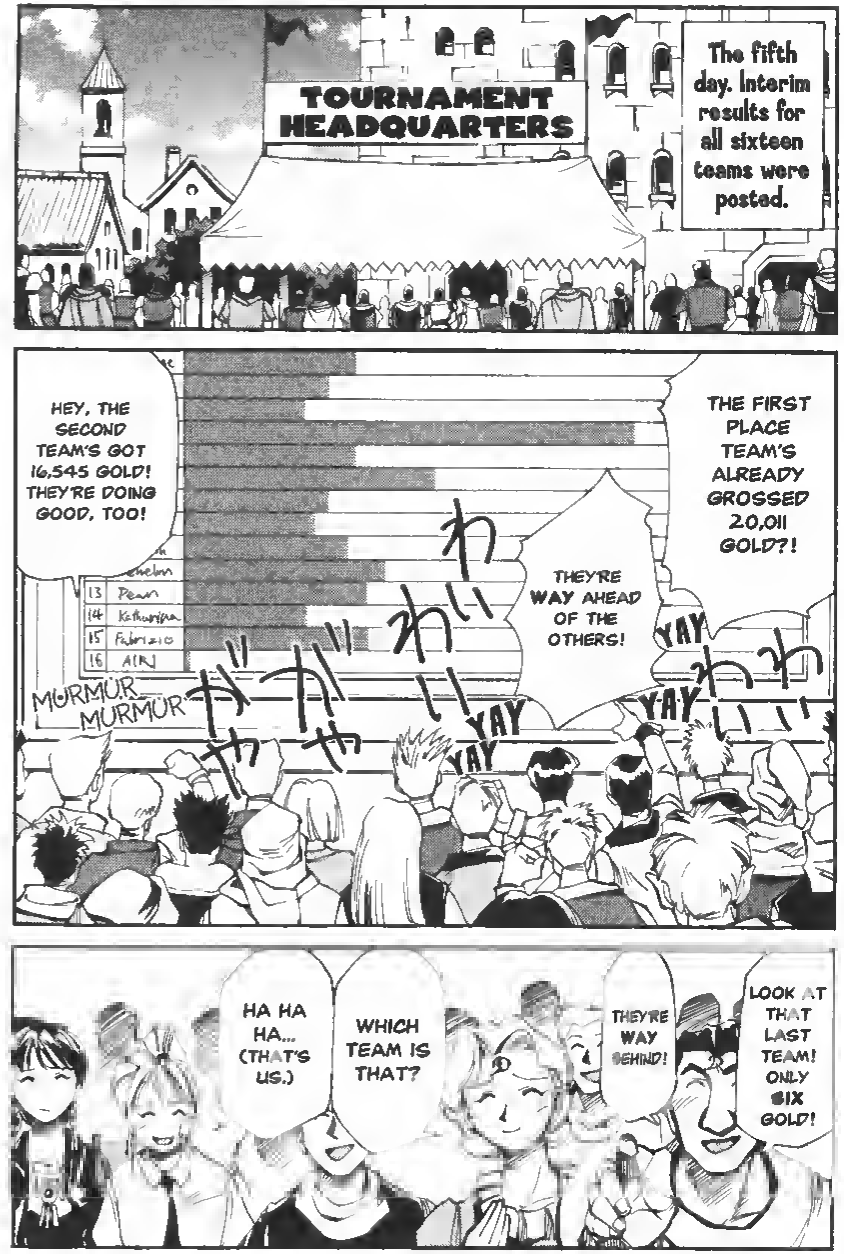

RODIN'S "THE THINKER"!

We found a role for Junpei, too.
WHAT?

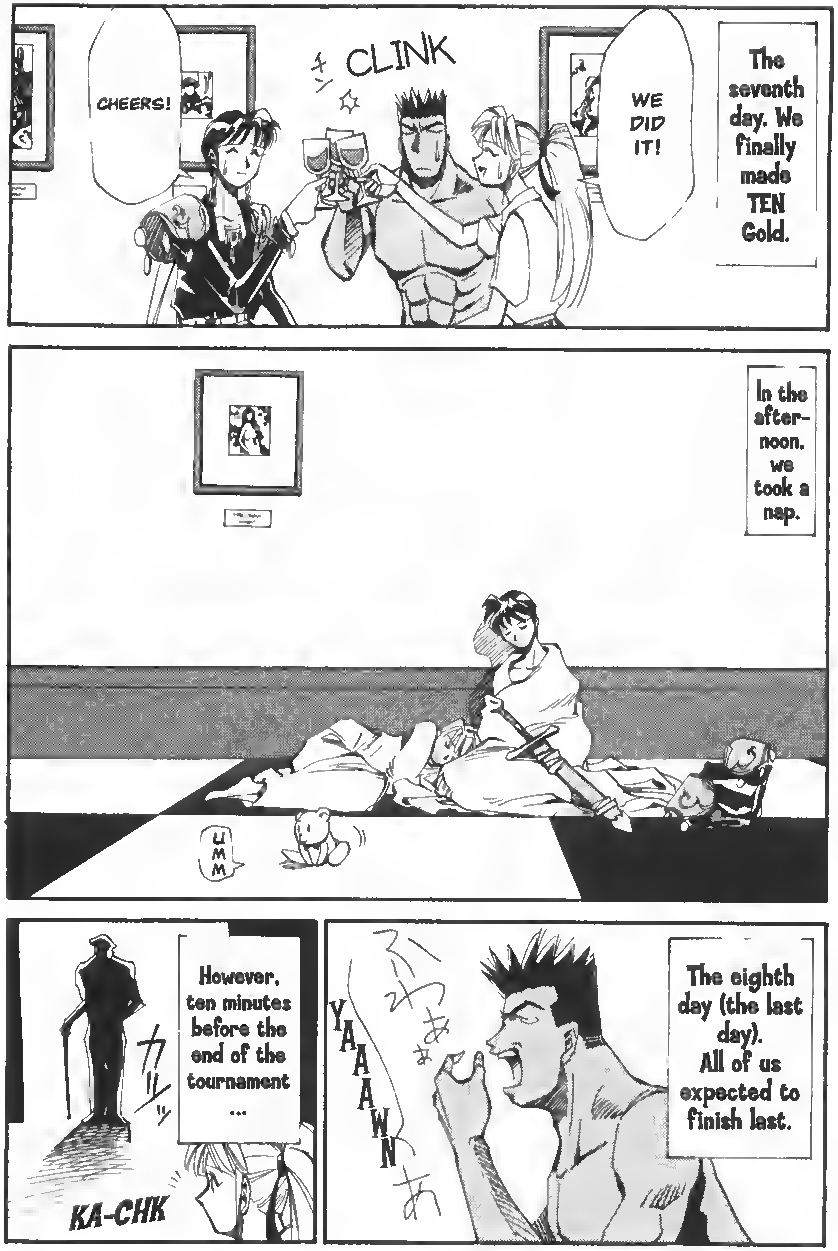
UMM
However...

NOBODY'S COMING.
YOU LOOK PRETTY SCARY, YOURSELF.
MEOW?
MAYBE MIKE LOOKS TOO THREATENING?
ACHOO!
To top it off, Celcia got sick...
In fact, there was a graveyard behind us and a coffin maker next door.

The fourth day
and had to stay in bed.
ZZZ
CELCIA
I'VE NOTICED SOME PROFESSIONALS AMONG THE VISITORS.
MAYBE.
MAYBE THOSE PICTURES WILL FINALLY ATTRACT SOME ATTENTION NOW.
?!
HELP!
I HOPE OUR POPULARITY IMPROVES BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT ENDS.
WHY DON'T WE CLOSE FOR THE DAY?
SCARY...
THUP
THUP
THUP
THUP
THEY WENT THAT WAY!
ART THIEVES!


TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS
The fifth day. Interim results for all sixteen teams were posted.
HEY, THE SECOND TEAM'S GOT 16,545 GOLD! THEY'RE DOING GOOD, TOO!
THE FIRST PLACE TEAM'S ALREADY GROSSED 20,011 GOLD?!
THEY'RE WAY AHEAD OF THE OTHERS!
MURMUR MURMUR
YAY
わいわい
HA HA HA... (THAT'S US.)
WHICH TEAM IS THAT?
THEY'RE WAY BEHIND!
LOOK AT THAT LAST TEAM! ONLY SIX GOLD!

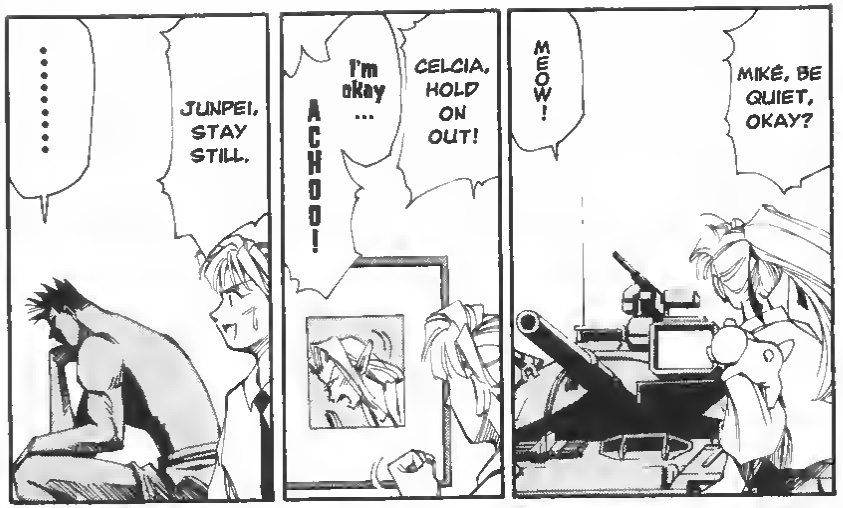
THEY, UH, THEY'RE A STRANGE GROUP OF FOUR PEOPLE. THEY'RE ONLY AFTER THE ART, NOT MONEY.
SO...
The sixth day. A warning was issued concerning the MUSEUM ROBBERS.
RUSTLE
HOW MUCH DAMAGE HAVE THEY DONE?
AND...
WANTED
MAL PISRO REWARD 100,000 GOLD COINS
CLEARFARLANE REWARD 100,000
BONZ ZINE REWARD 100,000 GOLD COINS
BY THE WAY, THEY AREN'T VIOLENT SO LONG AS YOU FOLLOW THEIR INSTRUCTIONS.
FIRST PLACE MADE 20,011 GOLD...
PHEW
THE LEAD TEAM MADE 20,011 GOLD BEFORE CLOSING UP SHOP.
ALL THE TOP-RANKING TEAMS HAVE BEEN ROBBED.

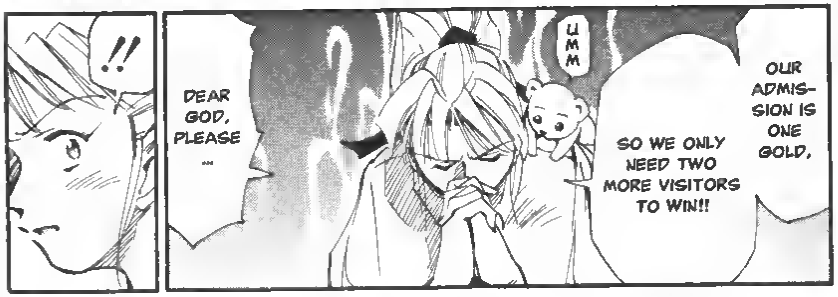

CHEERS!
CLINK
WE DID IT!
The seventh day. We finally made TEN Gold.
In the afternoon, we took a nap.
UMM
However, ten minutes before the end of the tournament ...
KA-CHK
YAAAWN
The eighth day (the last day). All of us expected to finish last.

A miraculous turn of events suddenly began.
WHAT?!
THAT'S ONE OF PICASSO'S...
I WISH TO PURCHASE THIS.
ACTUALLY,
I CAN'T SELL IT TO YOU....
UM, THIS IS AN ART MUSEUM.
REALLY?!
ACCORDING TO THE TOURNAMENT RULES, WE ARE ALLOWED TO SELL.

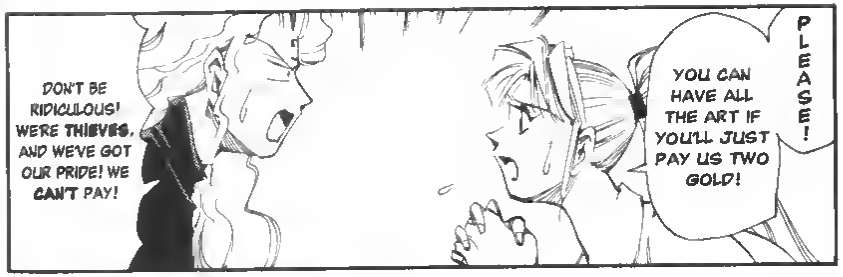
TA-DAA
I'VE BROUGHT 20,000 GOLD WITH ME.
G-CHK
.....!!

WE CAN DO IT! WE CAN STILL WIN THIS!
WHICH PUTS US IN A VERY CLOSE SECOND PLACE!
THAT'LL MAKE OUR TOTAL 20,010 GOLD COINS!
WOW!
SPARKLE SPARKLE


.....
JUNPEI, STAY STILL.
ACHOO!
I'm okay ...
CELCIA, HOLD ON OUT!
MEOW!
MIKÉ, BE QUIET, OKAY?


!!
DEAR GOD, PLEASE ...
UMM
SO WE ONLY NEED TWO MORE VISITORS TO WIN!!
OUR ADMISSION IS ONE GOLD,

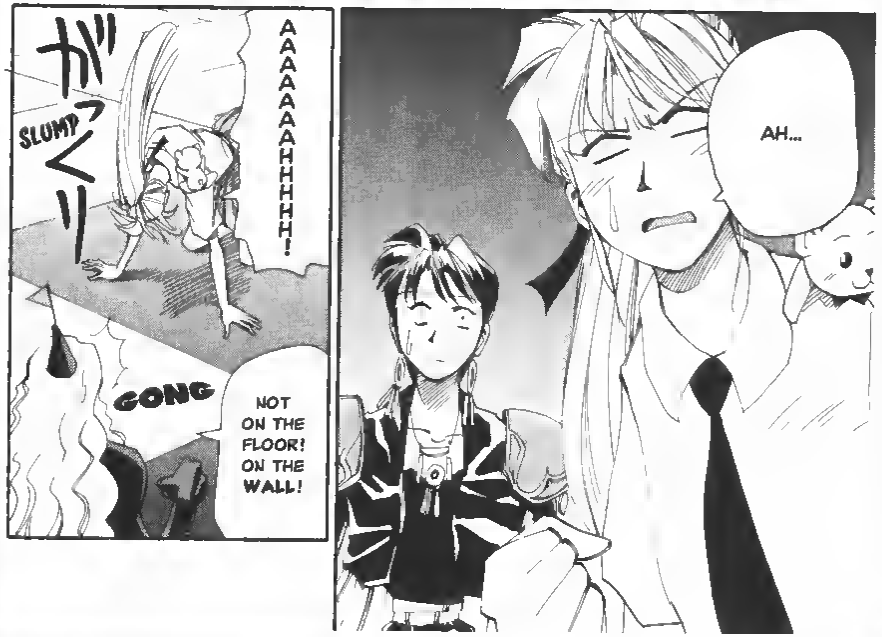
HERE THEY COME!
SCUFF

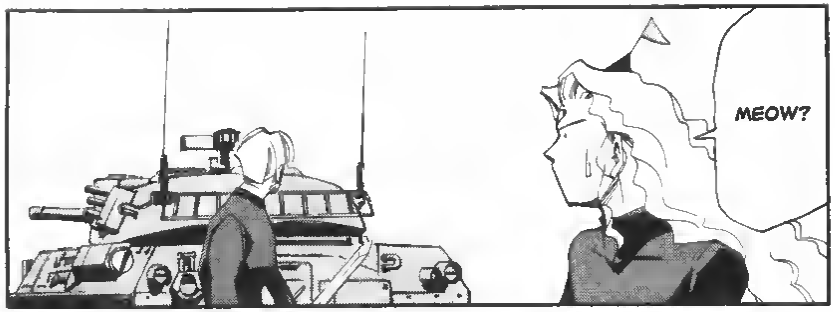

PLEASE!
YOU CAN HAVE ALL THE ART IF YOU'LL JUST PAY US TWO GOLD!
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! WE'RE THIEVES, AND WE'VE GOT OUR PRIDE! WE CAN'T PAY!

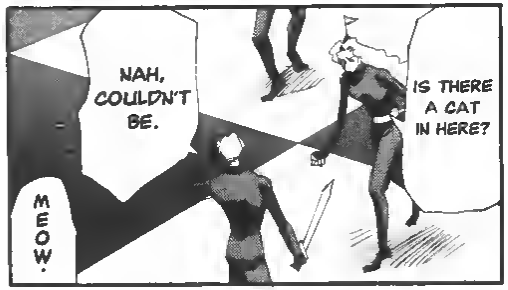
IT'S OVER.
DEJECTED
ガックリ
GLANCE
.....
.....
.....

BOSS!
THESE TWO WOMEN ARE THE ONLY ONES HERE!
HM.
VERY WELL.
SWSH

WE ARE THE ART MUSEUM THIEVES!
EVERYBODY, UP AGAINST THE WALL!


AH...
NOT ON THE FLOOR! ON THE WALL!
GONG
SLUMP
ガックリ
AAAAAAAAHHHHH!


MEOW?


NAH, COULDN'T BE.
IS THERE A CAT IN HERE?
MEOW.

NO, MIKE! STAY QUIET!

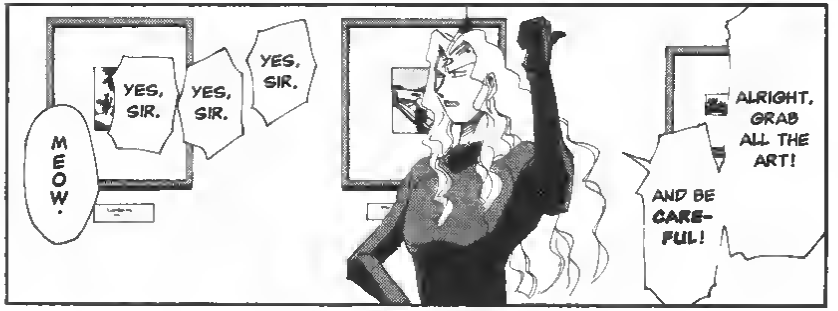
MAPPY! IT CAME FROM AROUND HERE.
WAUGH! THERE IT IS AGAIN!

WHAT?
OH. YOU MUST HAVE SOME KIND OF PSYCHIC ABILITY.
DID YOU GUYS HEAR A CAT?

.....
SPIN
?

DAMN.
AM I IMAGINING THINGS?

I CAN'T MAKE A MOVE AS LONG AS THAT IDIOT HAS HIS SWORD ON AIR!


MEOW.
YES, SIR.
YES, SIR.
YES, SIR.
ALRIGHT, GRAB ALL THE ART!
AND BE CARE-FUL!

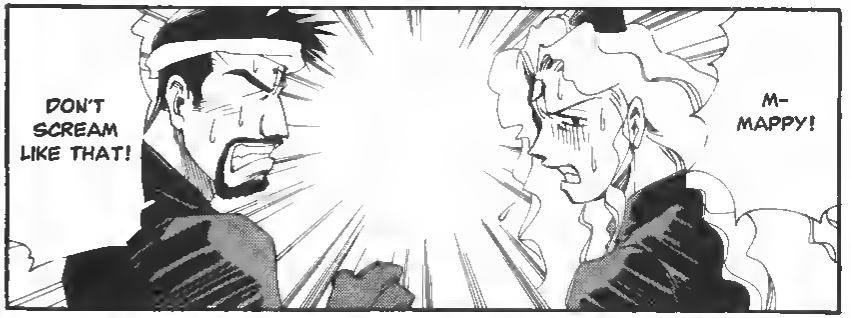
AIRI?!
ARE... ARE YOU SERIOUS?
I AM!
YOU HEARD A CAT, RIGHT? THREE DAYS AGO, OUR CAT GOT SICK AND DIED IN THIS VERY ROOM.

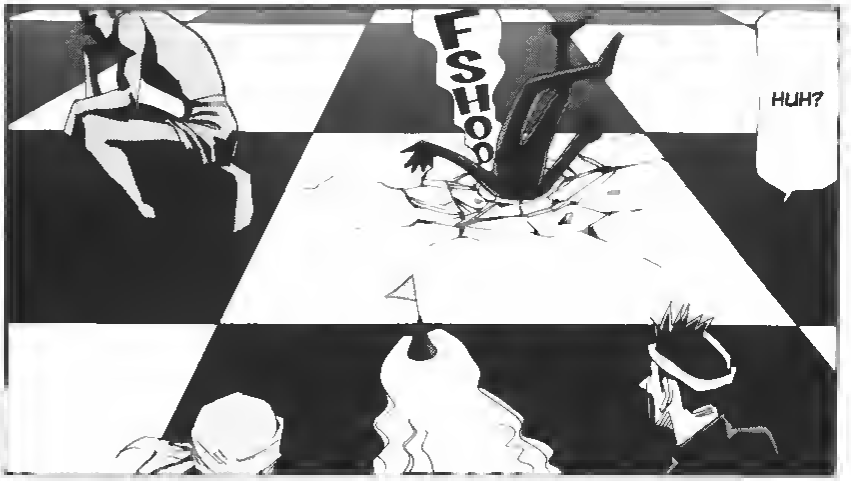
YOU'RE LYING! THAT'S ALL A LIE!
SHOCK
OH, MY. IT SEEMS YOU CAN EVEN HEAR THE ELF WHO DIED HERE FROM A SNEEZING DISORDER.
BOSS,
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE QUICK!
.....?!

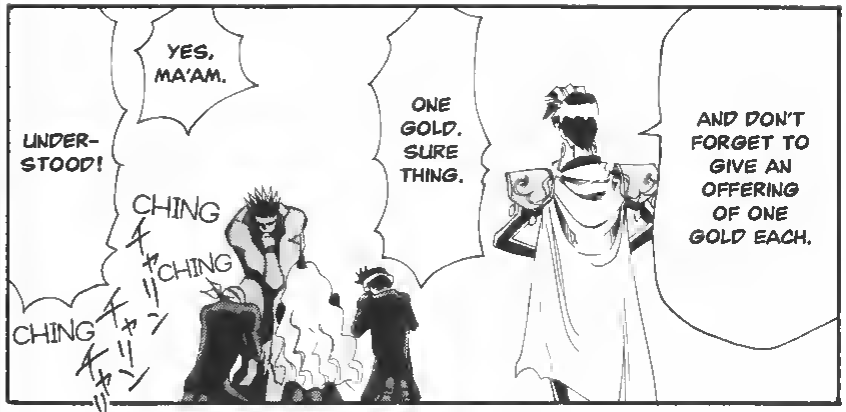
IDIOT!
JUST S- STAY CALM!
BOSS!
IT'S THE GHOST OF A CAT!
SPEAKING OF WHICH, THERE'S A GRAVEYARD BEHIND THIS BUILDING... AND A COFFIN MAKER'S NEXT DOOR.
AND YET, I FELT AN UNQUENCHABLE THIRST FOR BLOOD.
HYAAA!!
TWITCH
ACHOO!
WHO JUST SNEEZED?
WHO'S THERE?!
SLRRK
Oops.

SLIIIDE
YOUR ONLY HOPE...
YOU HAVE ALL BEEN CURSED.
WAUUGH! HWAUUGH!
SHWIP
IS TO PRAY TO THAT STATUE!
I'LL PRAY! I'LL PRAY!
YES, MA'-AM!
THE STA-TUE?!
SCOOT SCOOT

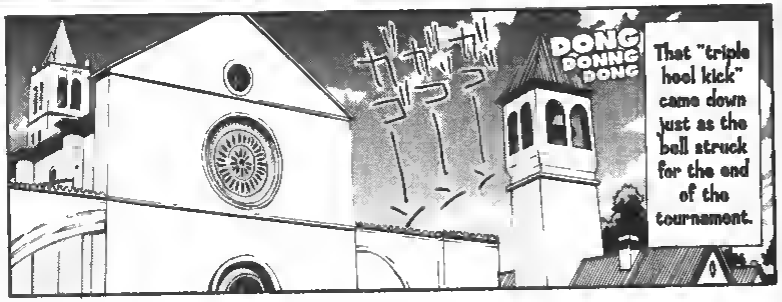
HNGRAAA!
AIEEE!
TWITCH
KERBAM

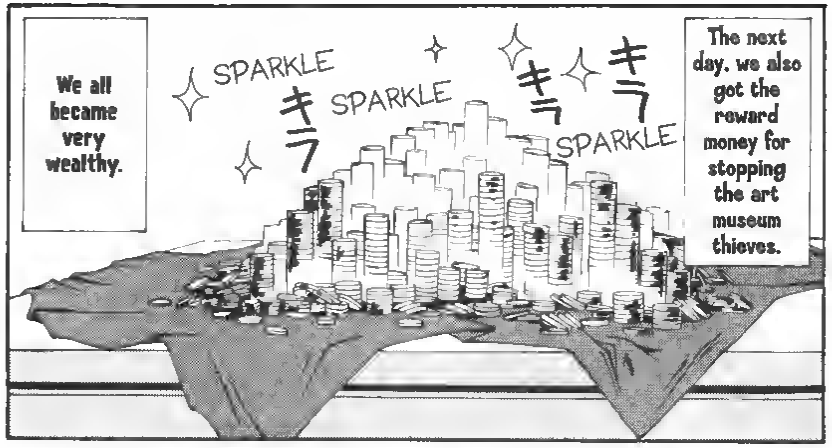

DON'T SCREAM LIKE THAT!
M-MAPPY!

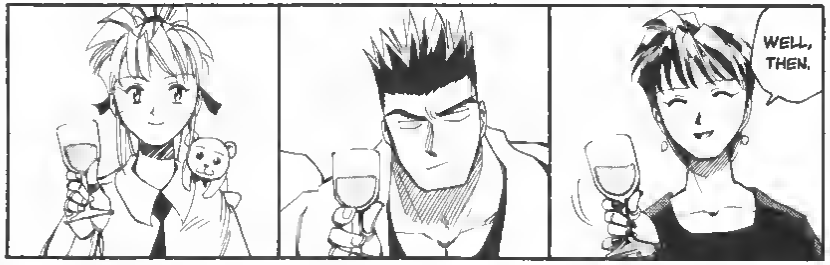

FSHOO
HUH?



TOTAL INCOME: 20,013 GOLD

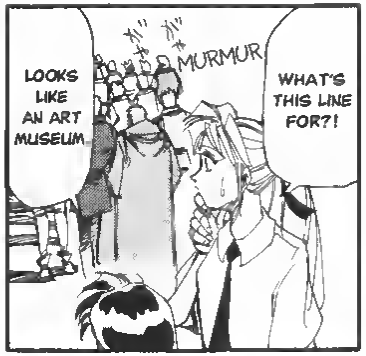


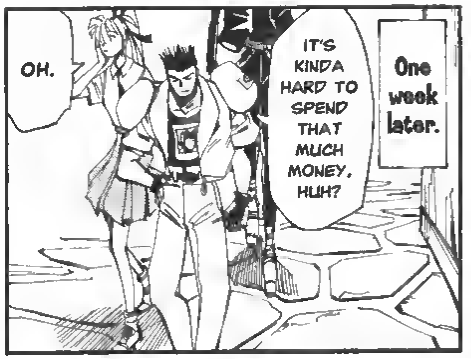

We all became very wealthy.
SPARKLE
キラ
SPARKLE
キラ
SPARKLE
キラ
The next day, we also got the reward money for stopping the art museum thieves.


WELL, THEN.

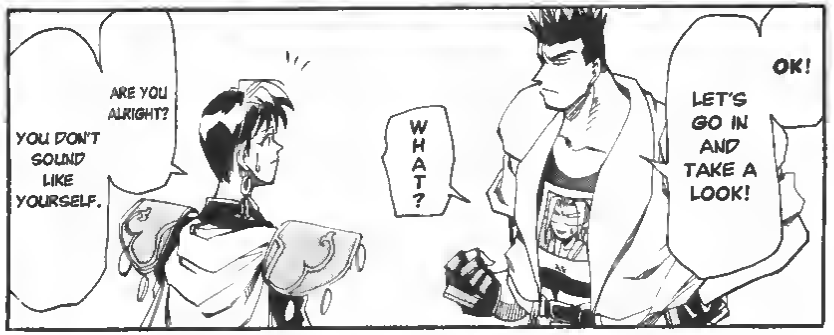
GOOD WORK EVERYONE!
CLINK
CHEERS!

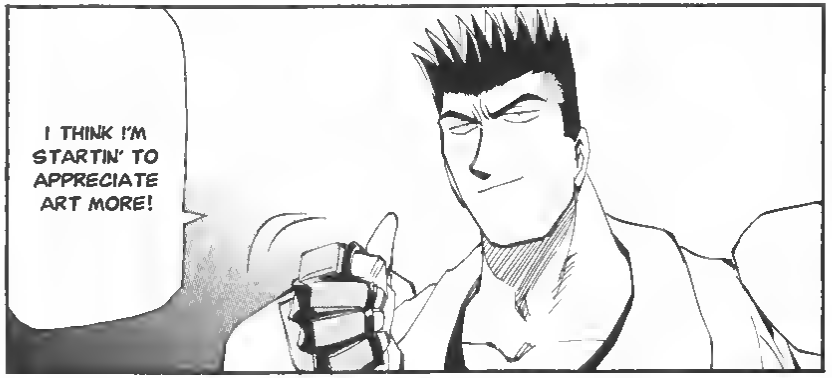
THE WINNER IS ENTRY NUMBER SIXTEEN!
AIRI AND HER TEAM!
PRIZE MONEY
1,000,000G
THE TOURNAMENT CITY PRESENTS
YAY!!

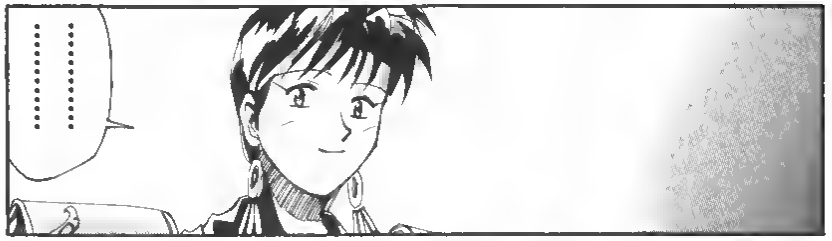

LOOKS LIKE AN ART MUSEUM
MURMUR
WHAT'S THIS LINE FOR?!


One week later.
OH.
IT'S KINDA HARD TO SPEND THAT MUCH MONEY, HUH?

CHATTER CHATTER
わいわい
BUT THE LINE IS HUGE!
IT'S 100,000 GOLD PER PERSON!
THE ADMISSION IS OUT-RAGEOUS!


ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
YOU DON'T SOUND LIKE YOURSELF.
WHAT?
OK!
LET'S GO IN AND TAKE A LOOK!


I THINK I'M STARTIN' TO APPRECIATE ART MORE!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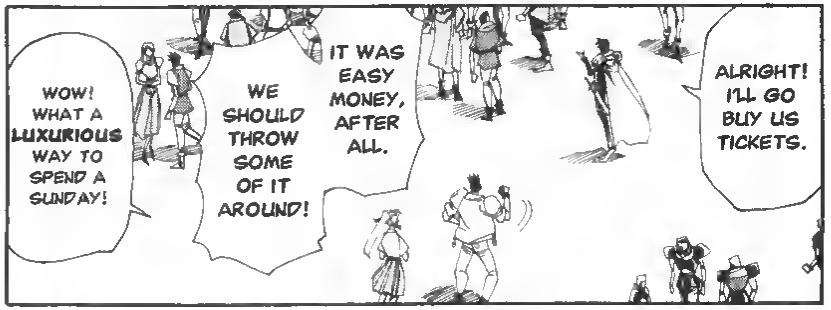

WOW! WHAT A LUXURIOUS WAY TO SPEND A SUNDAY!
WE SHOULD THROW SOME OF IT AROUND!
IT WAS EASY MONEY, AFTER ALL.
ALRIGHT! I'LL GO BUY US TICKETS.

.....
But inside... was the Picasso from my textbook.

making of #18

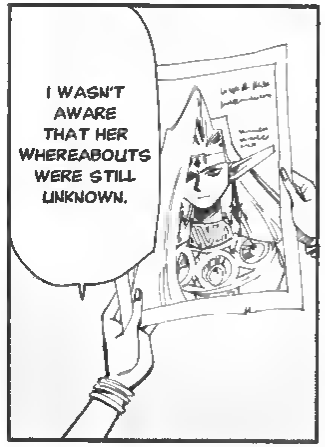
I went a little "off track" for this chapter (which falls in the middle of a rather long story arc)

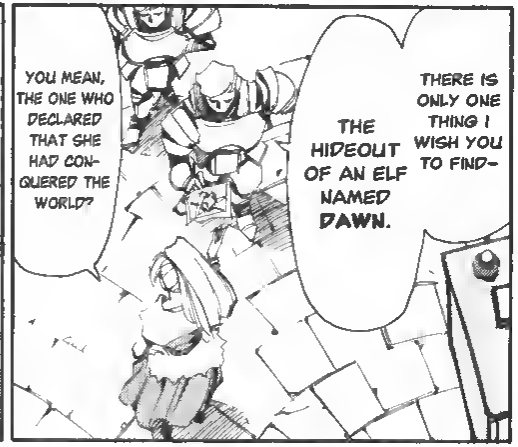
By the way, The Thinker's pose here isn't exactly natural. Why not try it for yourself?

MY SEARCH SPELLS WILL SOON TRACK HER DOWN.
WATCH.
SMILE
I UNDER-STAND. I'LL BE GLAD TO COOPERATE.
IF WE'RE EVER GOING TO RESTORE PEACE TO THE WORLD, WE MUST BRING HER DOWN
WOW

VGORRR
WITH ALL PRAISES AND BLESSINGS DO WE IMPLORE THEE...
OH SPIRITS OF LIGHT AND WISDOM RISE NOW ABOVE BLACK HILLS AND STORMY CLOUDS.
WHAT?!
BWOOF
OH, NO!
WAAA!
WHAT?!
BWSH

HOW DO YOU DO?
YOU'RE MISS TINA, THE SEARCH EXPERT, AREN'T YOU?


I WASN'T AWARE THAT HER WHEREABOUTS WERE STILL UNKNOWN.

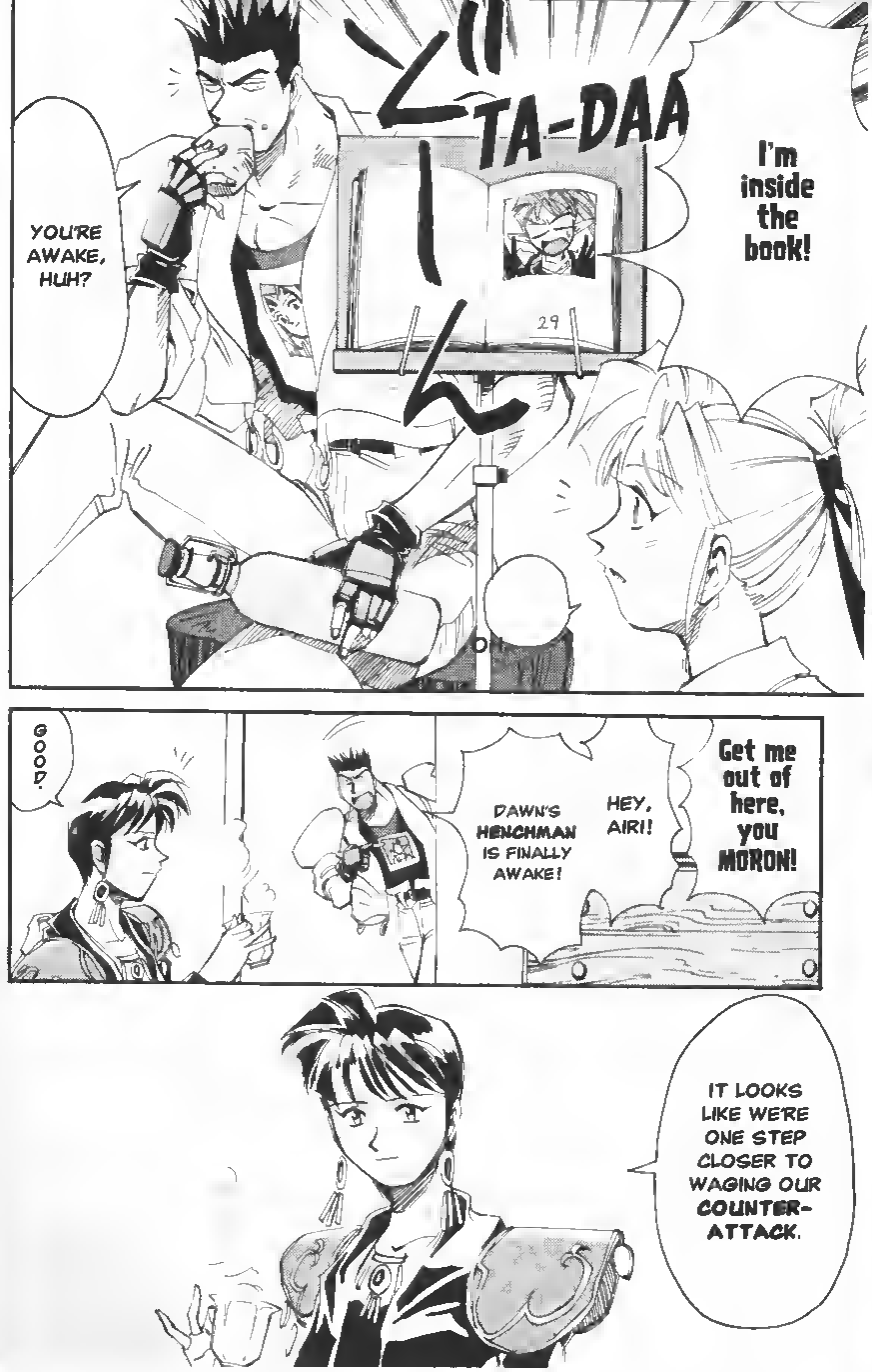

YOU MEAN, THE ONE WHO DECLARED THAT SHE HAD CONQUERED THE WORLD?
THE HIDEOUT OF AN ELF NAMED DAWN.
THERE IS ONLY ONE THING I WISH YOU TO FIND-

KA-BOOM
MADAME DAWN, THE EXPLOSION IS COMPLETE.
TWO KNIGHTS IN THE AREA HAVE ALSO DISAPPEARED FROM THE MONITOR.
I SEE.
GOOD WORK.
VWOOOM
ヴォォォン
VWOOOM
ヴォォォン
THEY SHOULD NOT HAVE TRIED TO FIND US.
THAT WAS... INCREDIBLY FOOLISH.

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF SEARCHING FOR HER.
SOMEONE WHO'D JUST GO OFF ON HER OWN LIKE THAT IS USELESS TO ME.
HOWEVER,
MISSING?
SO WHERE IS SHE?
KILICA COULDN'T BE DEAD...
tremble
Hey, wait a minute...

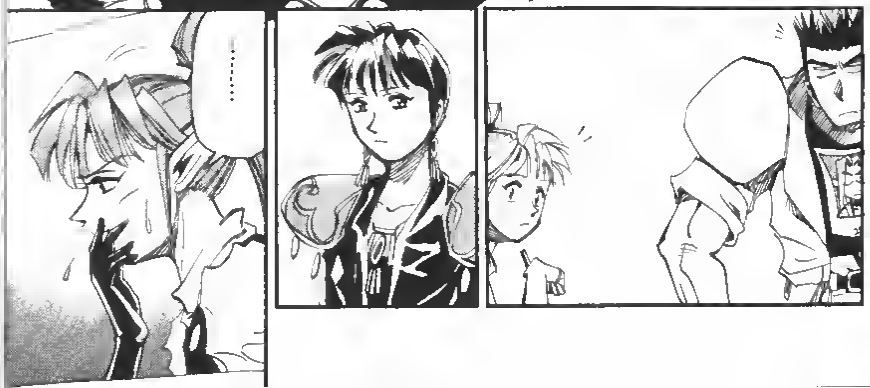
CONVENTIONAL SEARCH SORCERY SHOULD WORK.
EVEN IF THE STAR MAP CAN'T FIND THEM,
I STILL HAVE THOSE ENEMIES FROM THE OTHER WORLD TO DEAL WITH.
SPEAKING OF FOOLS,
YES. THANK YOU.
HAVE YOU RECOVERED?
MA-AM?
BARTZ!
KILICA IS STILL MISSING.
THEO IS FINE, AND TEESEN IS RECOVERING.
WHAT OF KILICA'S TEAM?
BUT MADAME DAWN,

NAME: KILICA.
PROFESSION: PUPPETEER.
ALRIGHT, HERE COMES THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION.
WHAT EVERYONE IN THE WORLD WANTS TO KNOW.
HMPH

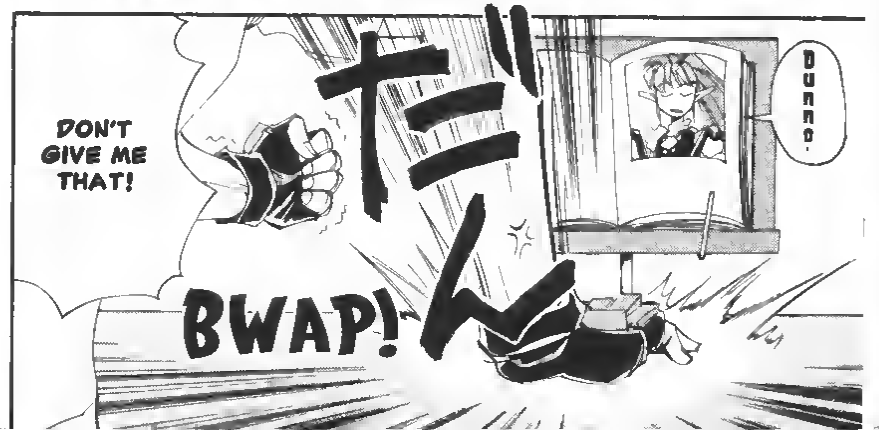

TA-DAA
I'm inside the book!
YOU'RE AWAKE, HUH?
GOOD.
DAWN'S HENCHMAN IS FINALLY AWAKE!
HEY, AIRI!
Get me out of here, you MORON!
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ONE STEP CLOSER TO WAGING OUR COUNTER-ATTACK.

DON'T PLAY DUMB WITH ME!!
GRRっ
がぁっ
Oh, shut up! How can I answer if I don't KNOW?!

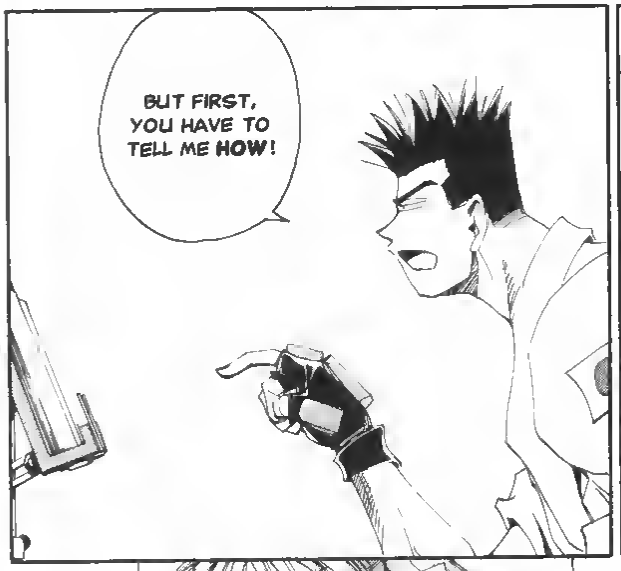
I'm not...
You've got me all wrong.
WHY SIDE WITH SOMEONE LIKE DAWN? WHAT'S HER APPEAL?
HMM——


.....

WHERE IS DAWN?!
.....
.....


DON'T GIVE ME THAT!
BWAP!
ボゴン
DUEEO!

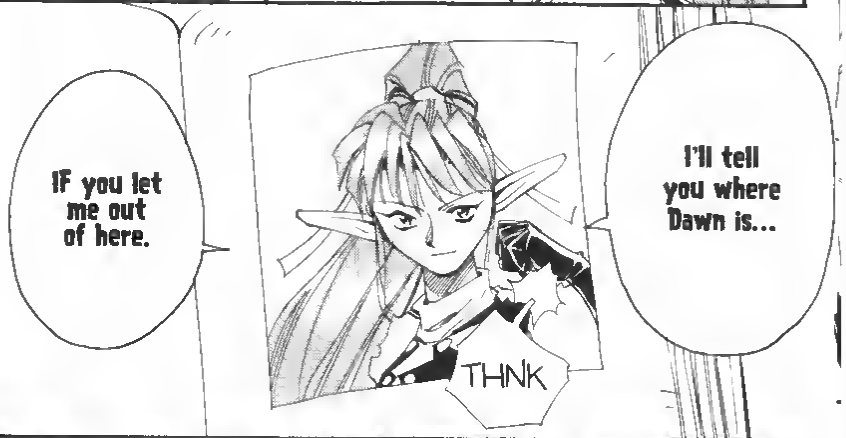
ONCE I'M OUT OF HERE, YOU'RE MINE!
HEH
FOOLS!

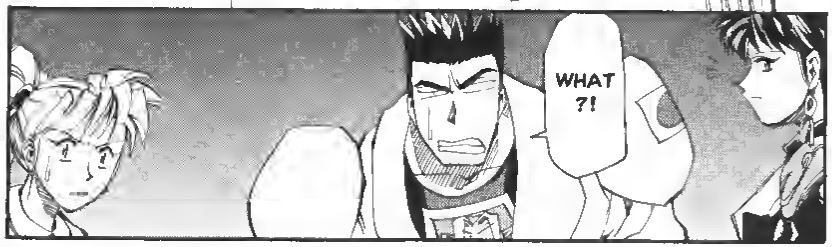

BUT FIRST, YOU HAVE TO TELL ME HOW!

I GUESS I'LL LET YOU OUT.
WELL, IF THAT'S WHAT AIRI WANTS,

Who...
SHUT IT, CELCIA!
Got that right.
You suck!
You put me in here without knowing how to get me OUT?!
What?!

Fine.


IF you let me out of here.
THINK
I'll tell you where Dawn is...

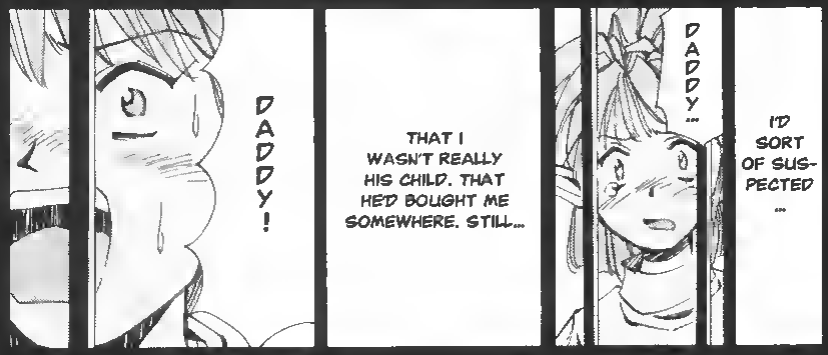

WHAT ?!

AIRI?!
Yeah. I promise.
YOU SWEAR YOU'LL TELL US?

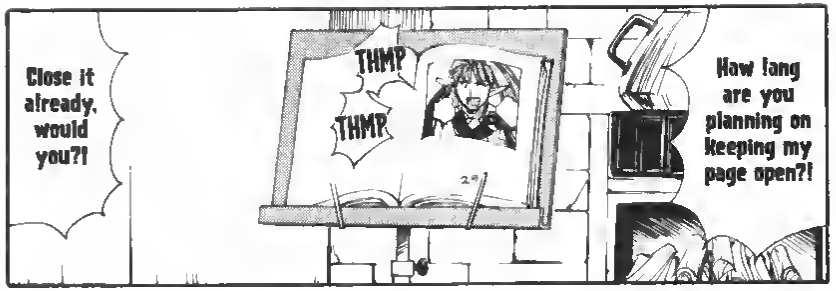
WAIT.
YOU AIN'T IN ANY POSITION TO NEGOTIATE, LADY!
GET SERIOUS

Of COURSE not!
YOU DON'T TRUST US, DO YOU?
DAMN YOU!
I forgot!
I DESPISE the word "trust"!
.....

YUP.
TWENTY-EIGHT PAGES WORTH.
THEN THE ELVES ON THE OTHER PAGES ARE STUCK IN HERE, TOO?
IF THAT'S THE CASE...
FLICKER
AAH. I SEE!
...
NOW I GET IT. THEY WANT ME TO TELL THEM HOW TO GET ME OUT SO THEY CAN RESCUE THE OTHER ELVES. ALMOST GOT ME THERE.
LOOK, DO YOU WANT TO GET OUT OR DON'T YA?
HURRY UP AND TELL US HOW.



YOU **PROMISED** THAT WE'D ALWAYS BE TOGETHER!

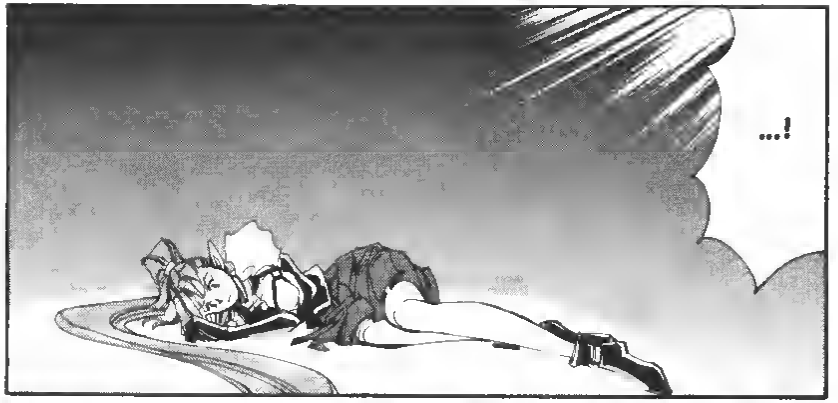

Close it already, would you?!
THMP
THMP
How long are you planning on keeping my page open?!

SILENCE
Is there anybody out there?!

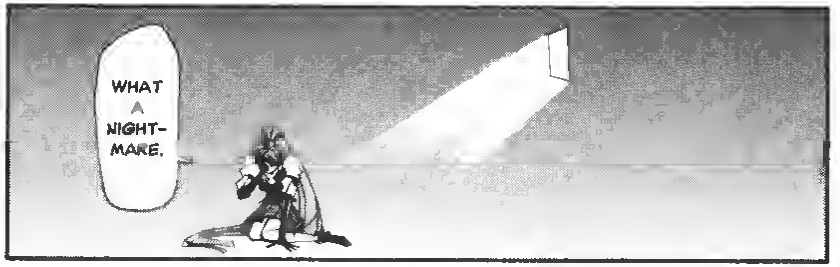
...
HUFF
HUFF
Stupid off-worlders!
Hey! Close the book!

KNOCK KNOCK

Are... are they keeping it open to try and STARVE me to death?
I wish they'd close the book so that time would stop.

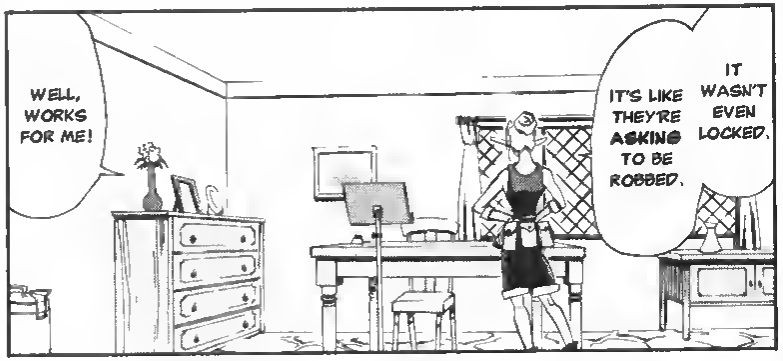

...!

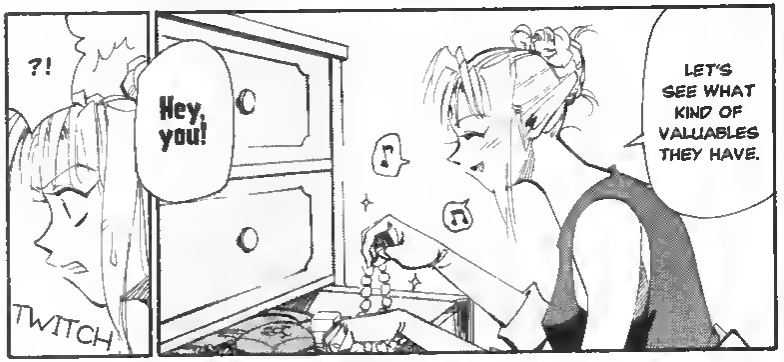
...


WHAT A NIGHT-MARE.

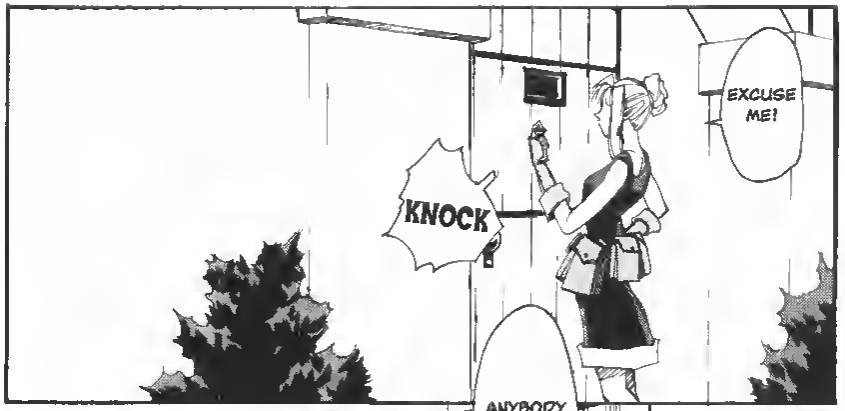
I KNOW YOU'RE OUT THERE! ANSWER ME, WHY DON'T YOU?!
HEY!
BAM BAM

GLARE


WELL, WORKS FOR ME!
IT'S LIKE THEY'RE ASKING TO BE ROBBED.
IT WASN'T EVEN LOCKED.

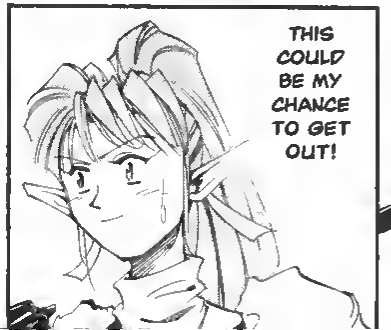

?!
Hey, you!
TWITCH
LET'S SEE WHAT KIND OF VALUABLES THEY HAVE.

I'm here, in the book!
WHO ARE YOU? WHERE ARE YOU?!
WAUGH! I'M SORRY!
THUD
CLATTER

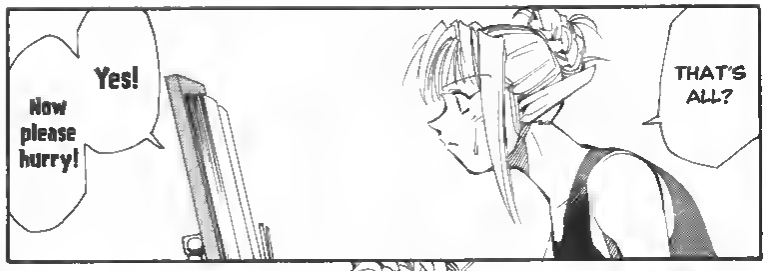

KNOCK
EXCUSE ME!

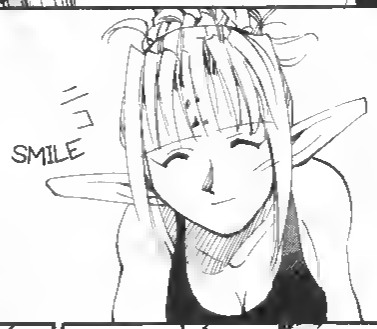
FRIEND OR FOE, I WONDER ...

LOOK
LOOK
WELL, I GUESS I'M JUST GONNA COME ON IN.

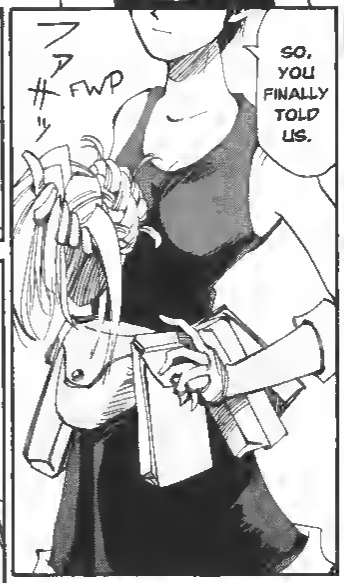

THIS COULD BE MY CHANCE TO GET OUT!

HELLOOO?
ANYBODY HOME?
CREAK

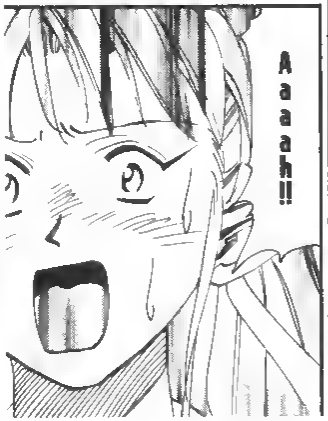

Yes!
Now please hurry!
THAT'S ALL?

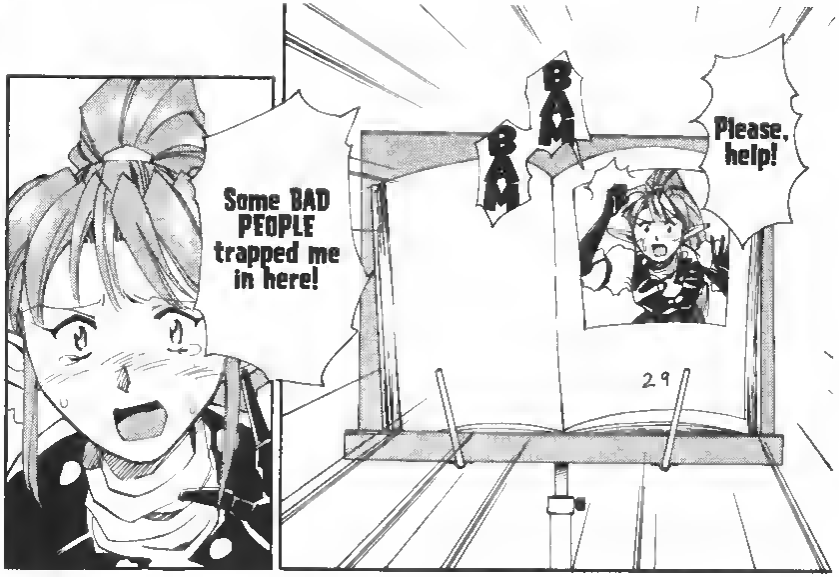

SMILE

A...


FWP
SO, YOU FINALLY TOLD US.

?
29


Aaaah!!

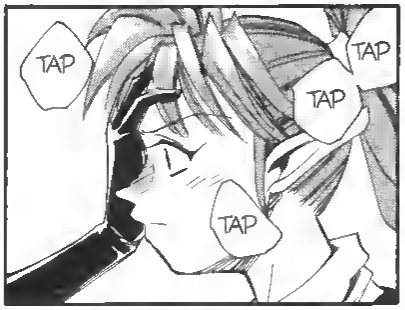

Some BAD PEOPLE trapped me in here!
BAM
BAM
Please, help!
29

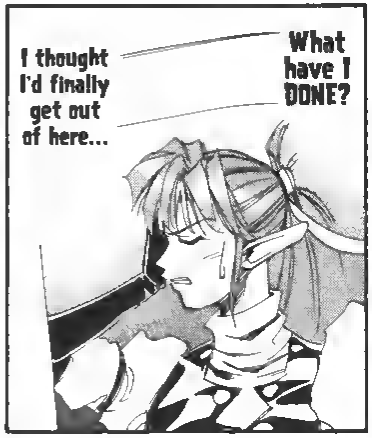
Please, get me out of here!
I've been waiting for someone like you to come by.
NO WAY! THERE'S AN ELF IN THE BOOK!

It's simple.
Just tap the four corners of this page with your finger, going counter-clockwise.
Alright?

Never again, as long as I LIVE!
I'll never trust ANYONE!

スッ SHP


TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP


I thought I'd finally get out of here...
What have I DONE?

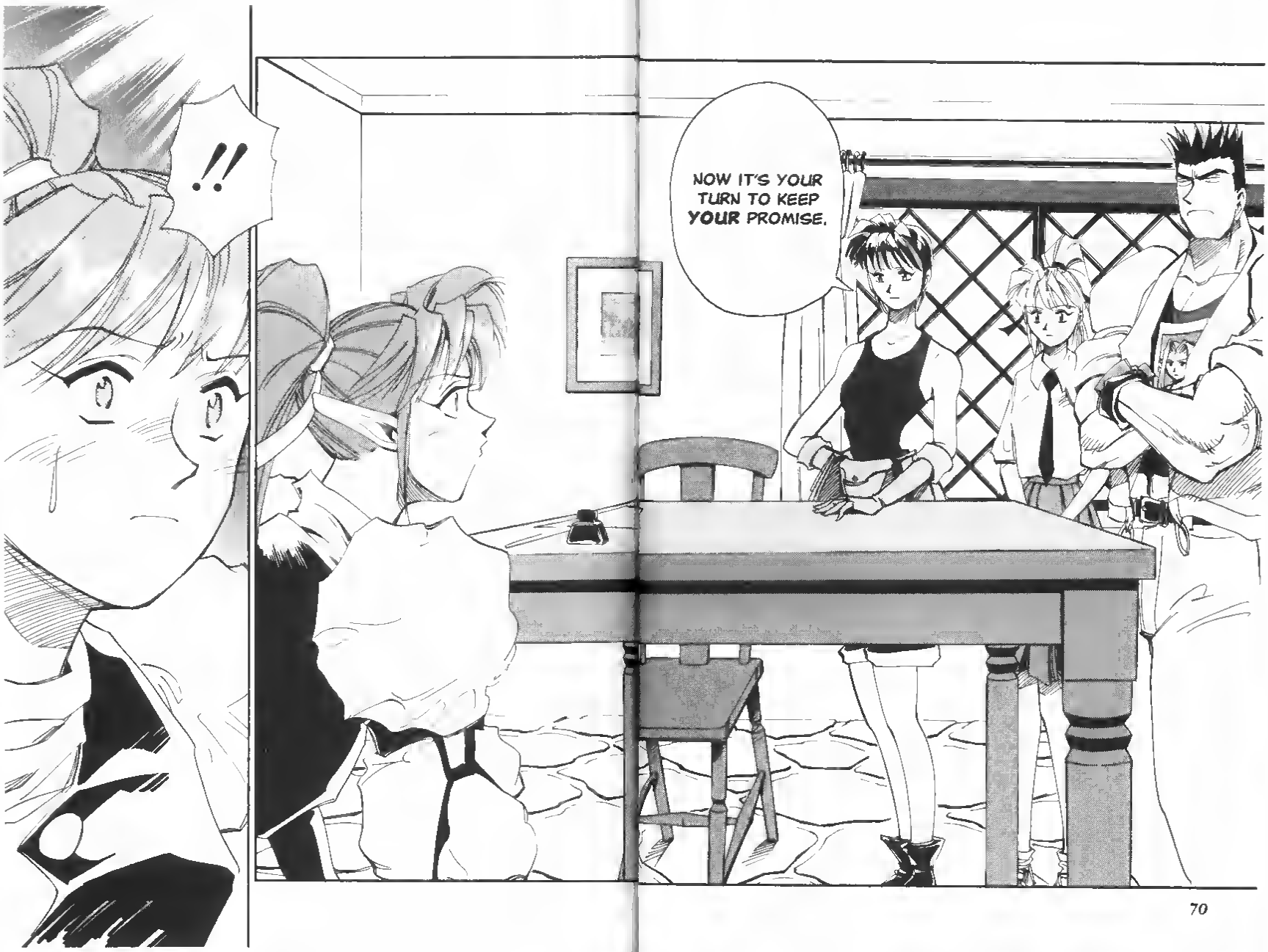
HUH?

It's YOU!

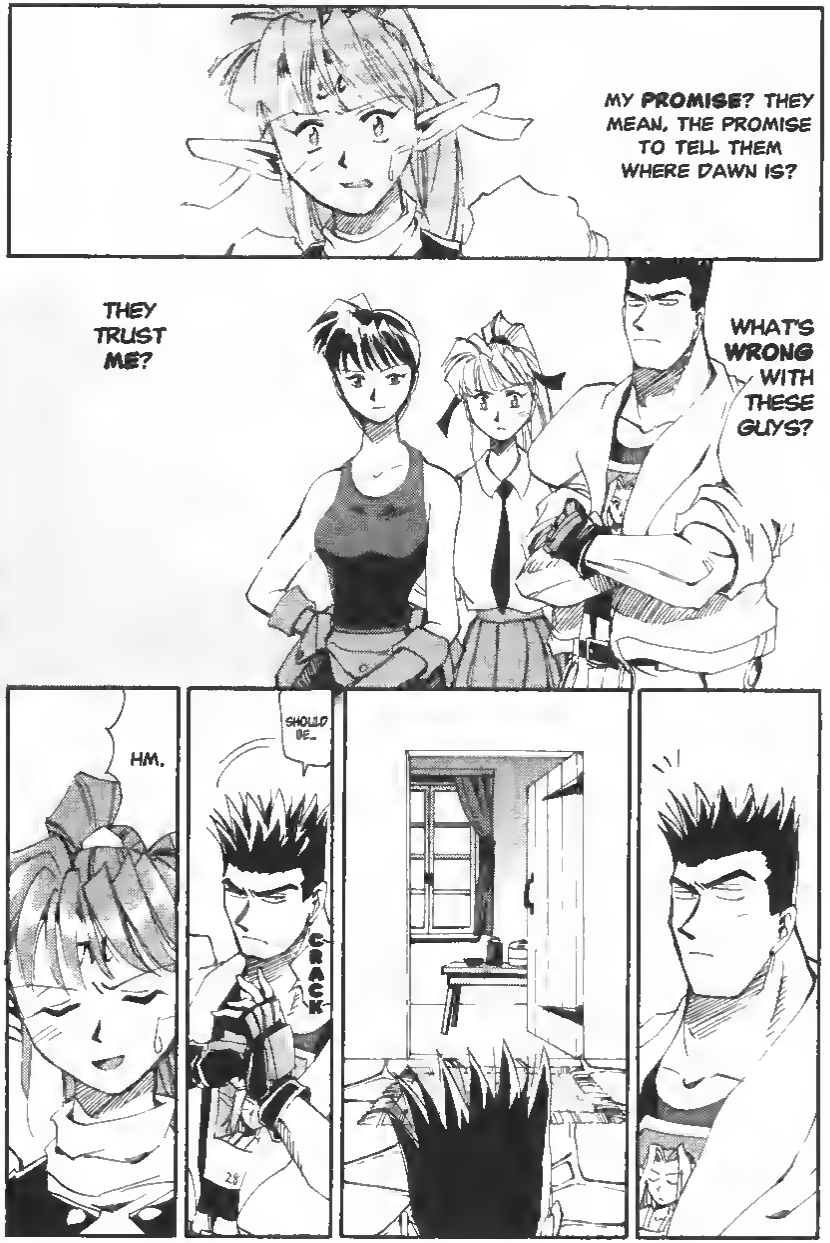
You... You tricked me!
THAT WAS SOME IMPRESSIVE ACTING!
CLAP CLAP
HEY, SHE DIDN'T WIN THAT OSCAR FOR NOTHIN'!

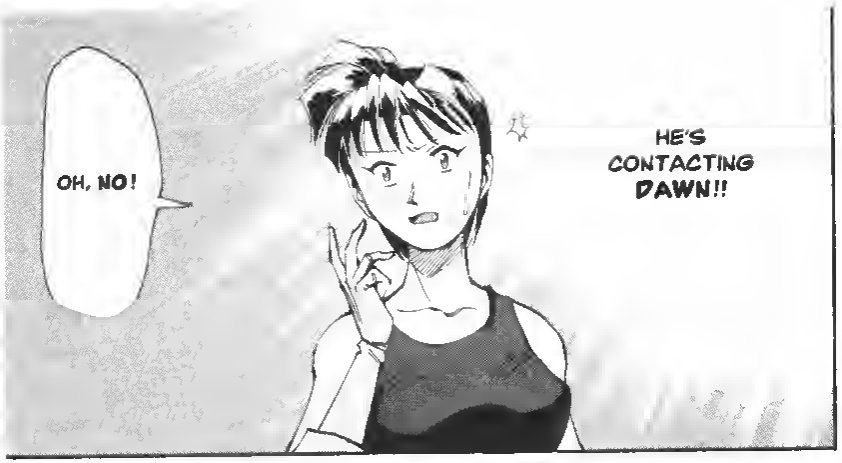
WAUGH!
BWORR
THUD
...
FSHHH
OWW...
CRACK

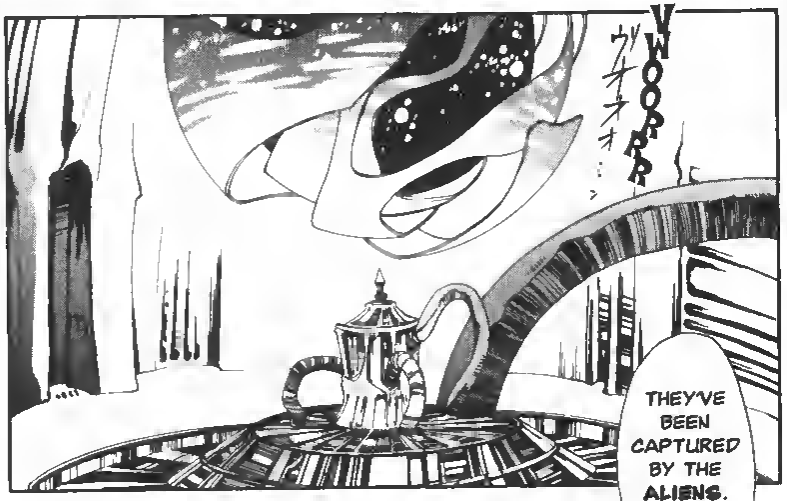
KILICA,
WHY DID YOU LET ME OUT?

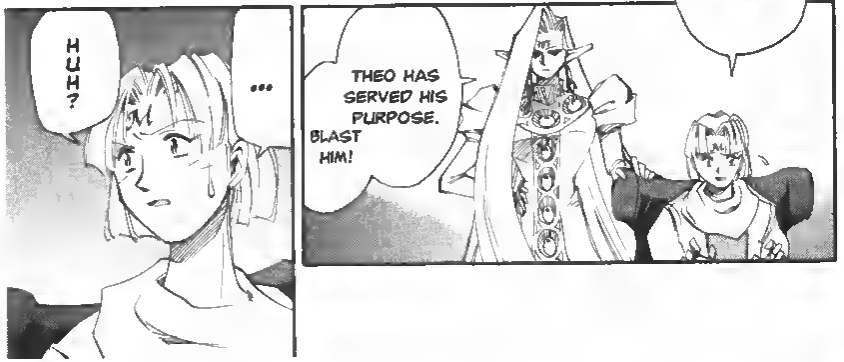

!!
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO KEEP YOUR PROMISE.

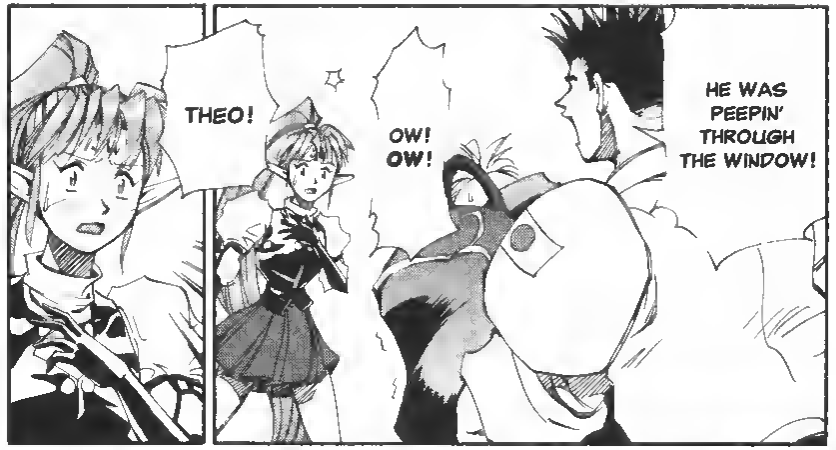
YOU FOOLS!
YOU ACTUALLY THINK I'D TELL YOU?
I'LL MAKE YOU REGRET LETTING ME OUT OF THAT BOOK!
THWOP
JUNPEI PUNCH!
どガっ
GAARGH!!
?!
WHAT?
AIR!
I CAUGHT THIS WEIRDO OUTSIDE!
CRAP!
キィィ
CREAK

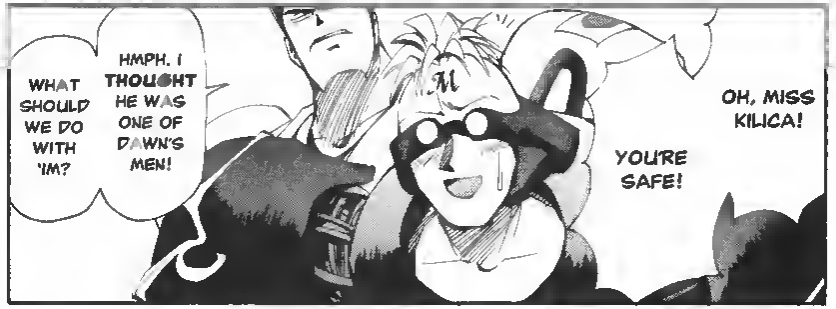

MY PROMISE? THEY MEAN, THE PROMISE TO TELL THEM WHERE DAWN IS?
THEY TRUST ME?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THESE GUYS?
HM.
SHOULD BE..
CRACK


OH, NO!
HE'S CONTACTING DAWN!!


ウォオオオ…
WOOOO
THEY'VE BEEN CAPTURED BY THE ALIENS.


HUH?
...
THEO HAS SERVED HIS PURPOSE. BLAST HIM!


THEO!
OW! OW!
HE WAS PEEPIN' THROUGH THE WINDOW!

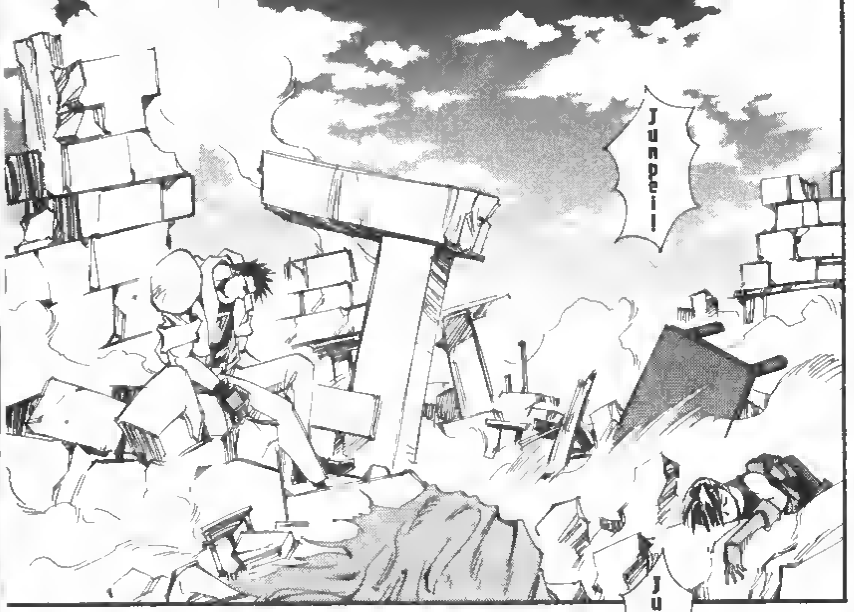

WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH 'IM?
HMPH. I THOUGHT HE WAS ONE OF DAWN'S MEN!
YOU'RE SAFE!
OH, MISS KILICA!

!!
HOWEVER, I'VE VERIFIED THAT MISS KILICA IS SAFE.
MADAME DAWN! I'M SORRY, BUT WE'VE BEEN CAPTURED!
UNFORTUN-ATELY, IT ONLY SEEMS TO WORK ON ELVES.
MAYBE WE SHOULD PUT HIM IN THE BOOK FOR NOW.

EVERYONE, RUN!

ゴオオオ

GOODBYE, OFFWORLDERS!
!!
...!!
KA-BOOM


Jumpei!

Jumpei!
wake up!
AIRI!
Somebody, answer me!
Ritsuko!
?!

ALL THAT'S LEFT IS FOR BARTZ TO FINISH THEM OFF.
IF THEY AREN'T DEAD, THEY'RE SURE TO AT LEAST BE INJURED.
HEH HEH HEH.
D-DETONATION COMPLETE.
SHE USED HER OWN MAN AS AN EXPLOSIVE... HOW COULD SHE?!
BWAHAHAHA!
HEH HEH HEH...

KILICA!
YOU'RE ALIVE?
28

SORRY, BUT...
I CAN'T LET YOU KILL THEM.
WHAT?
I MADE A PROMISE WITH THESE ALIENS.
ヨロッ
TOTTER

HE MUST BE ONE OF DAWN'S MEN!
HE HAS THE "M" MARK ON HIS FOREHEAD.

Ah...
SWSH
スッ

HOLD IT BARTZ!

SKSI

AIRI!

TWITCH
...

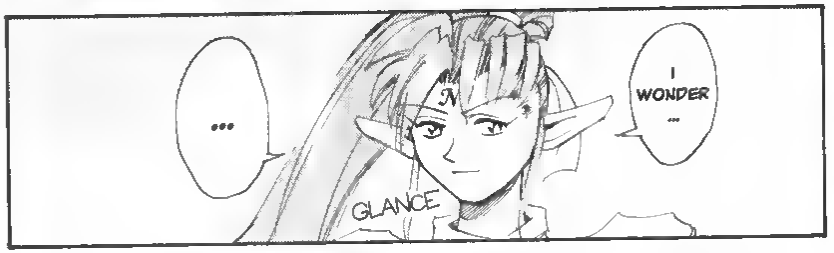
I SAID I'D TELL THEM WHERE DAWN IS.

#20 Mercenary vs. Fighter

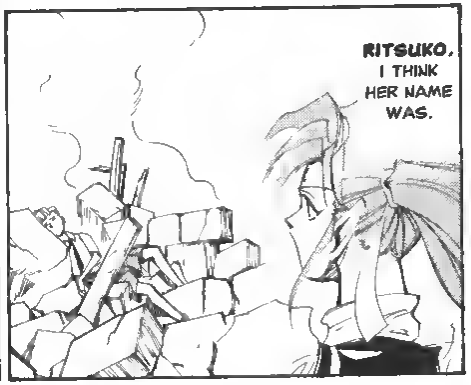
making of #19

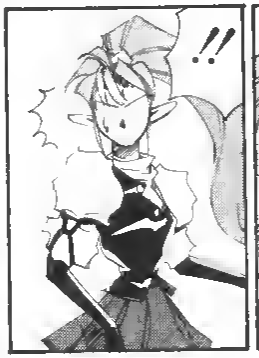
The rarely-seen MALE Elf
On the few occasions they
DO appear, they're always old
men. Why? I'm not sure.

WHY ARE YOU BETRAYING MADAME DAWN?

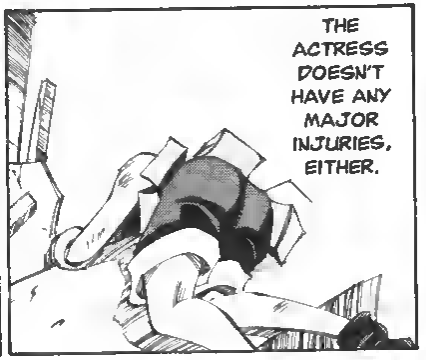

...
I WONDER...
GLANCE

SOME MINOR CUTS AND BRUISES... SHE'LL RECOVER QUICKLY.


RITSUKO, I THINK HER NAME WAS.


!!

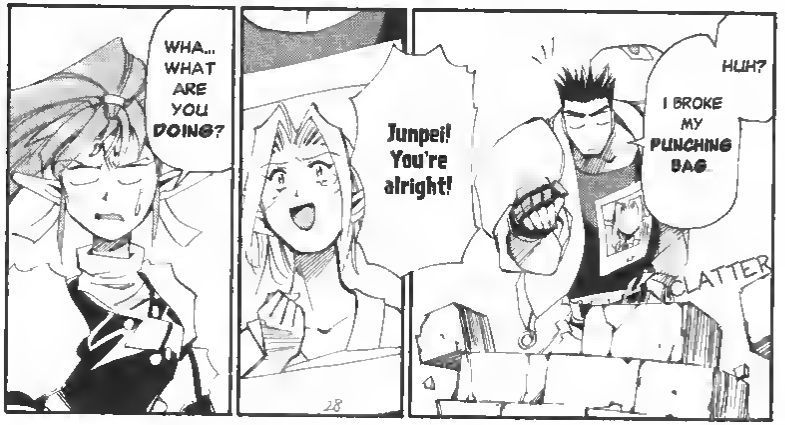
HOW ABOUT THAT FIGHTER?


THE ACTRESS DOESN'T HAVE ANY MAJOR INJURIES, EITHER.

SKSH

HMM
THE ALIEN GUY WHO DEFEATED GAU.
THIS MUST BE THE GUY.
YO.
LONG TIME NO SEE!
?
?!
WHAT?

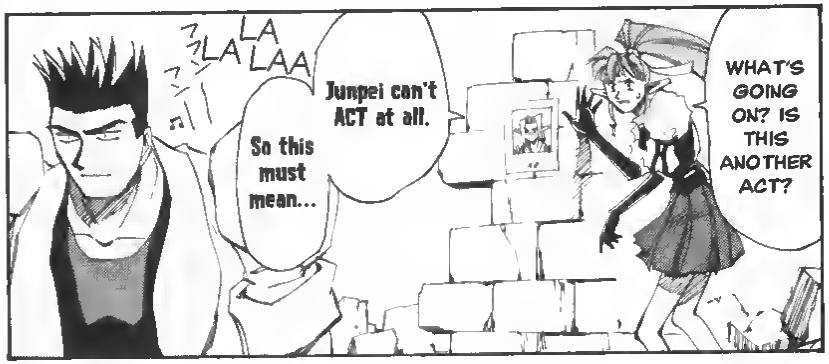
GA-CHNK
HYAA!
...?


WHA... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
Junpei! You're alright!
HUH?
I BROKE MY PUNCHING BAG
CLATTER

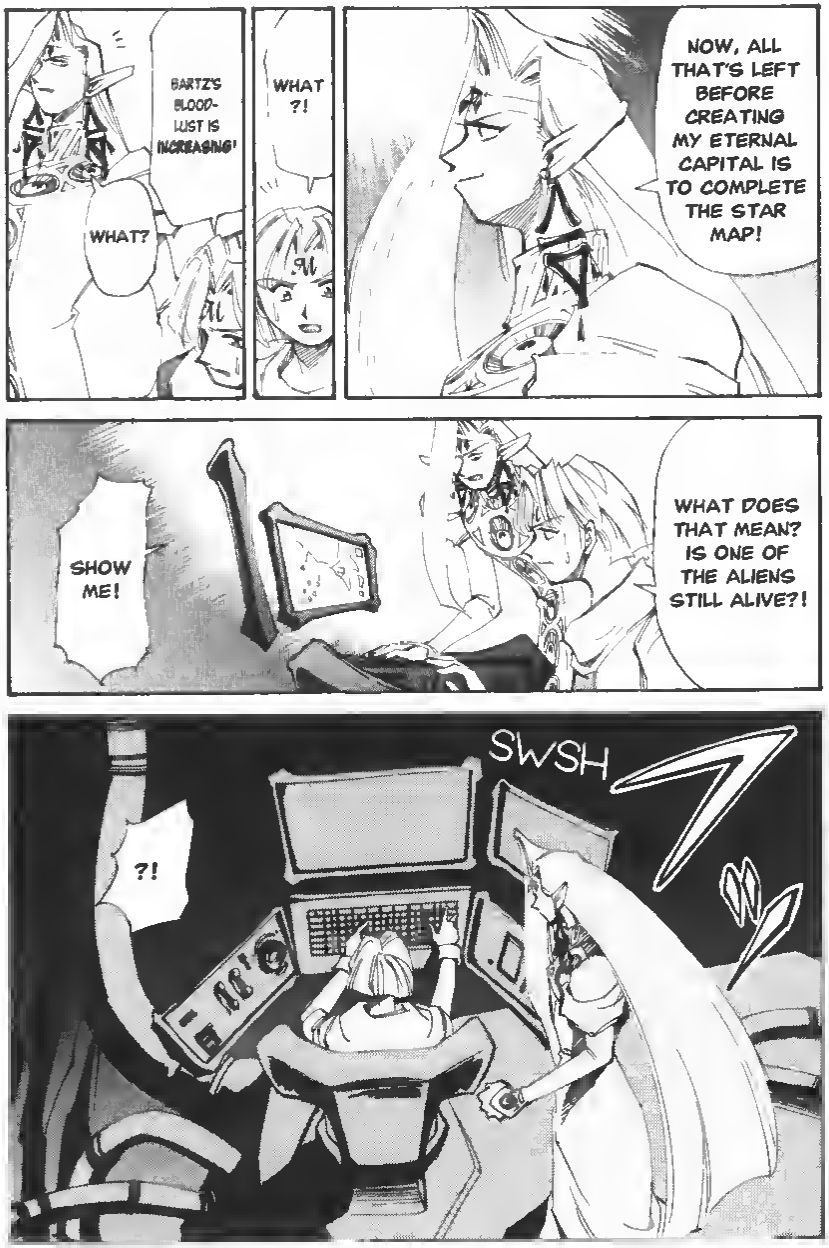
HOW YA DOIN', SAITOH?
YOU'RE LOOKIN' GOOD TOO, MANAGER!
What?!
...

Junpei! Are you still ASLEEP?!
WHOA! WHAT'S CELCIA DOING IN JAPAN?
.....
I'M KILICA! I'M NOT YOUR MANAGER!

Wake up!! You're NOT in Japan!
PAT
PAT
...
WHAT A NUISANCE. I'LL JUST PUT HER UP ON THE OL' PUNCHING BAG.

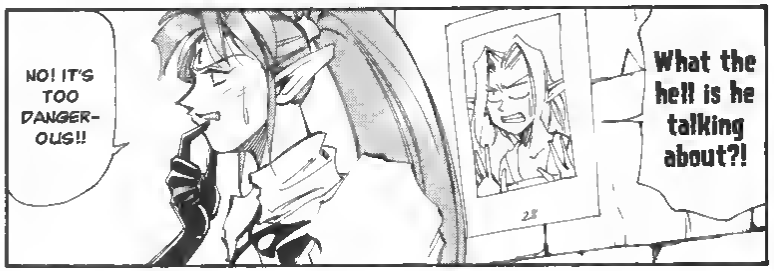

LA LA LAA
So this must mean...
Junpei can't ACT at all.
WHAT'S GOING ON? IS THIS ANOTHER ACT?

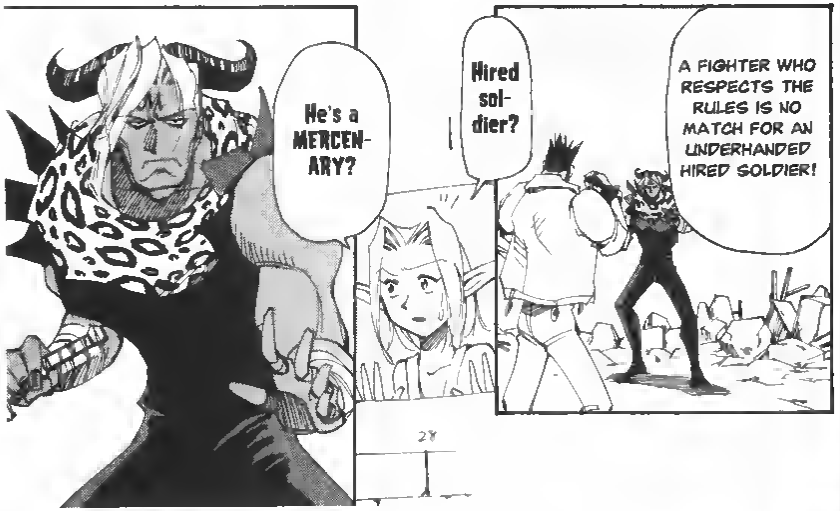
WOOO


BARTZ'S BLOOD-LUST IS INCREASING!
WHAT?
WHAT ?!
NOW, ALL THAT'S LEFT BEFORE CREATING MY ETERNAL CAPITAL IS TO COMPLETE THE STAR MAP!
SHOW ME!
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? IS ONE OF THE ALIENS STILL ALIVE?!
SWSH
?!

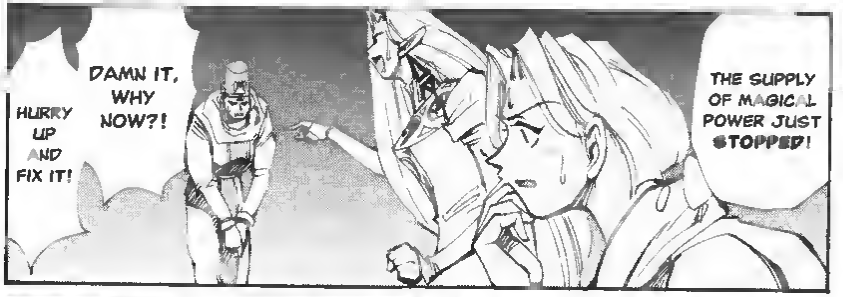
MADAME DAWHI KILICA IS ALIVE!
IS SHE? EXTRA-ORDINARY ...
IN ANY EVENT, THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN SOLVED.
RETURN SECURITY TO ITS NORMAL LEVELS.

SHWIP
BACKFISTS ARE OKAY, BUT NO ELBOWS!
USUAL RULES. FIVE ROUNDS, THREE MINUTES EACH.


NO! IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS!!
What the hell is he talking about?!


He's a MERCEN-ARY?
Hired sol-dier?
A FIGHTER WHO RESPECTS THE RULES IS NO MATCH FOR AN UNDERHANDED HIRED SOLDIER!

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
IS IT BROKEN?


HURRY UP AND FIX IT!
DAMN IT, WHY NOW?!
THE SUPPLY OF MAGICAL POWER JUST STOPPED!

WHAT'S GOING ON?
SHUDDER

YO, MANAGER! HIT THE GONG, PLEASE!
You IDIOT!
Don't take your eyes off him!
LOOK OUT!
HEEL KICK!
FWSHH

Mercenaries are soldiers who fight for MONEY.

They don't care about their employer's beliefs. They just care about getting PAID.
They have no sense of justice or loyalty, and they follow no ideals.

SHWIP
No!
I'VE GOTTA FIGHT FOR HIM.

Do something like that, and YOU could get blown up, too!
DAMN...

To them, war is BUSINESS, nothing more.

WHAT?!
かかと落とし……だと!?
A HEEL KICK?!
SO FAST!
IMPOSSIBLE! MY LEG WENT UP FIRST!
THUD
なぜ奴の足が先に当たる!?
HOW COULD HE HIT ME FIRST?!

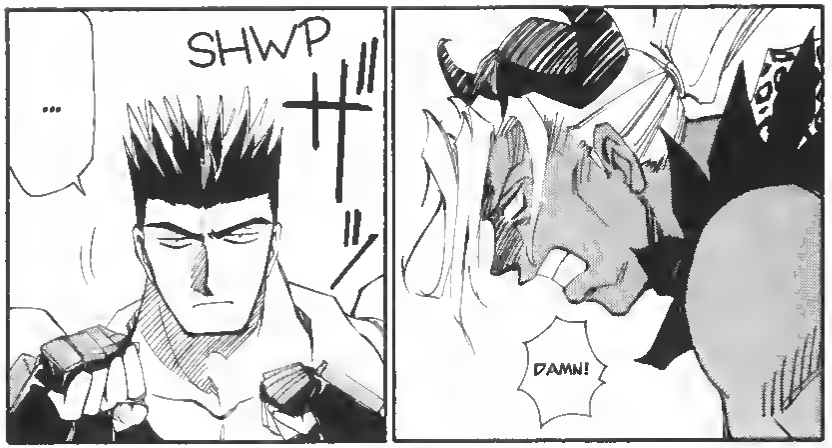
THWOD

TOTTER
ARGH...
Junpei! Finish him!
Now's your chance.
?
...?

THAT GUY LIFTS HIS LEG AND THEN DROPS IT, WHICH ARE TWO DIFFERENT MOVEMENTS.
JUNPEI'S LEG MOVES ON A DIFFERENT ARC FROM THE OTHER GUY'S.
IN A SINGLE, CIRCULAR MOTION!
BUT JUNPEI LAUNCHES HIS KICK FROM ONE SIDE OF HIS BODY...
THAT'S WHY IT'S SO QUICK!
……だからあんなに速いんだわ!!

VWOI!!
BWSH
BWSH
BWMP
SWSH
THNK!

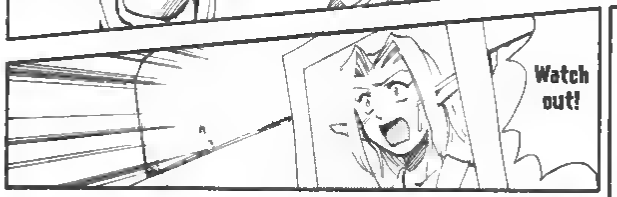
C'MON, SAITOH! GET UP.
CLENCH
I'LL KILL YOU!
SHWP
TOTTER
BASTARD, ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME?
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?!
FINISH HIM OFF, NOW!


SHWP
...
DAMN!

THAT'S HOW A MERCENARY FIGHTS.
NO RESPECT FOR RULES.
HE'S SO BLOOD-THIRSTY!

Junpei! Will you hurry up and GET SERIOUS?!
NOT TO WORRY.
HMPH. YOU ALWAYS WERE A JOKER, SAITOH!
NICE ILLEGAL ATTACKS THERE, BUDDY.
HEH

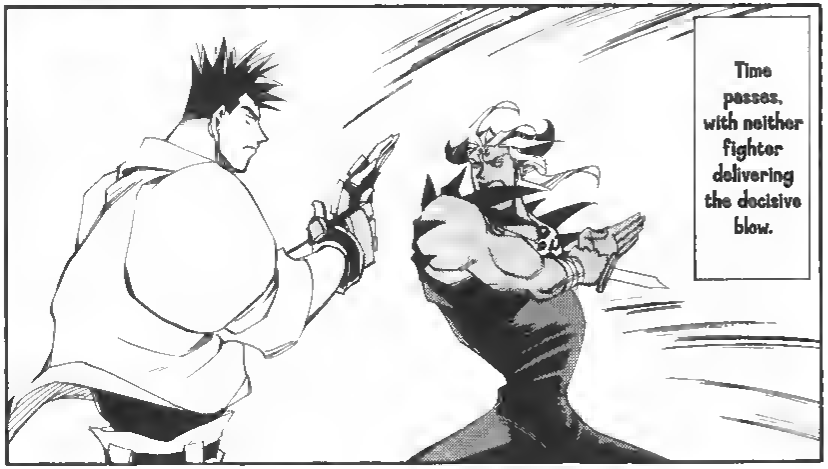
STOTTER
ARGH...


Watch out!

SHWP
BAKKING!!

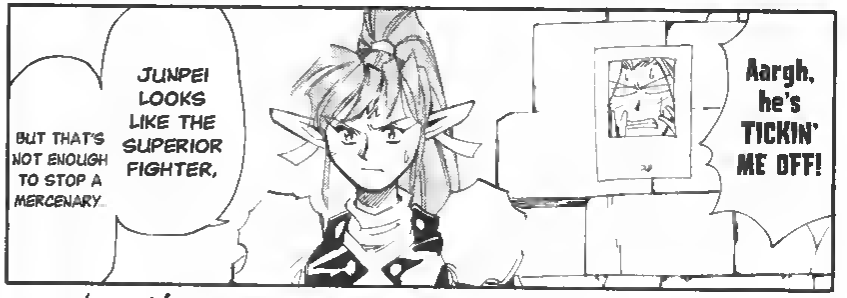
DIE!
BWSH

he refuses to deliver the FINISHING BLOW. Bartz, on the other hand, is outclassed...
but possesses an unflagging determination to KILL.
While Junpei is by far the better fighter.


Time passes, with neither fighter delivering the decisive blow.

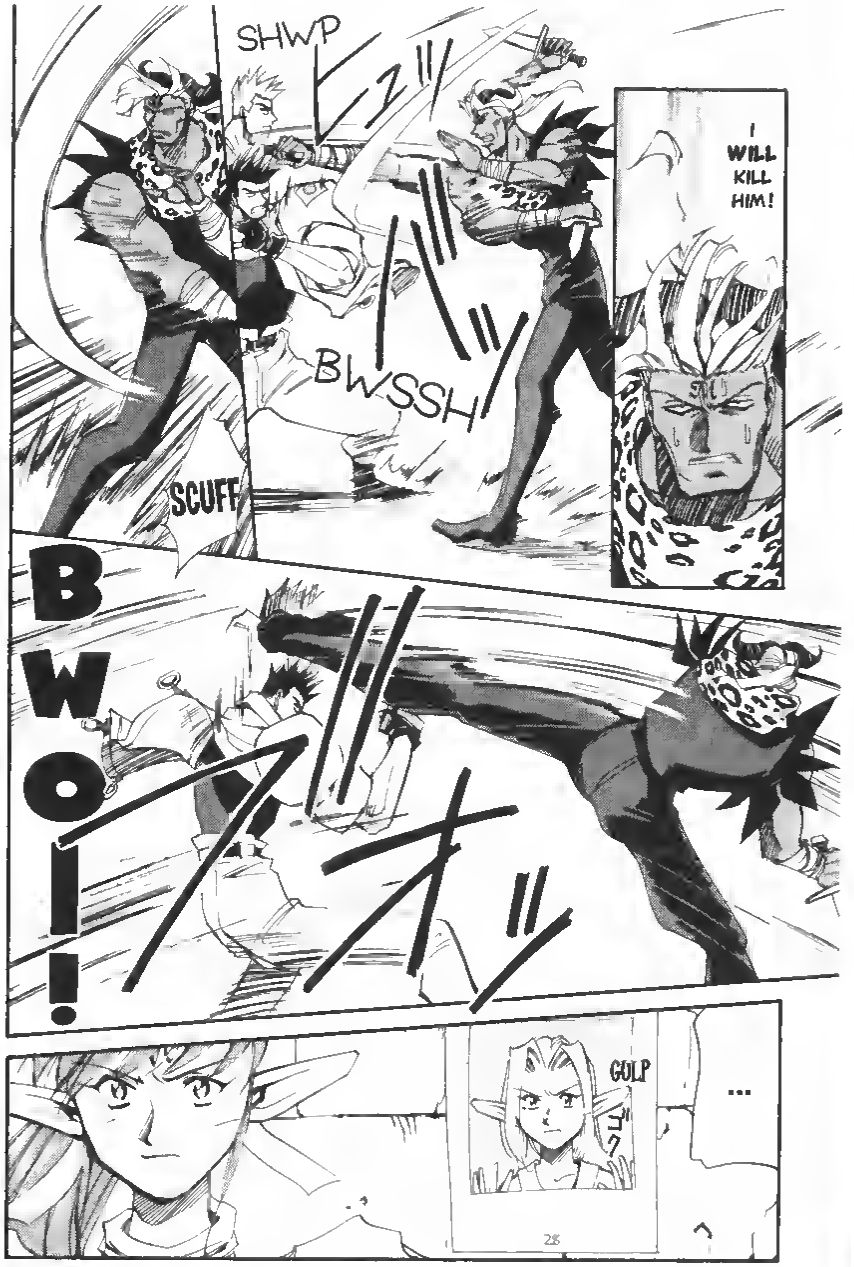
YOU NEVER CHANGE, DO YA?
SHWP

YOU COPYIN' A MOVE FROM SOME STUPID MOVIE AGAIN?
BWSH


BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH TO STOP A MERCENARY.
JUNPEI LOOKS LIKE THE SUPERIOR FIGHTER,
Aargh, he's TICKIN' ME OFF!

BWISH
SHWP
SOONER OR LATER, HE'S GOING TO DIE.
IF HE KEEPS PLAYING BY THE RULES...

I WILL DEFINITELY KILL YOU!
IF YOU FIGHT TO KILL, THEN AFTER YOUR FIGHT YOU'LL BE LEFT WITH NOTHING DO YOU STILL NOT UNDERSTAND?
BARTZ!
YOU MUST FIND THAT OUT FOR YOURSELF.
THERE WILL BE SOME-THING LEFT?
ARE YOU SAYING THAT IF I FIGHT YOUR WAY,
NO SIR, I DON'T!
FOR THEREIN LIES THE ESSENCE OF "FIGHTING THAT YOUR OPPONENT MAY LIVE."


SHWP
I WILL KILL HIM!
BWSSH
SCUFF
BWOI!
GULP
...

THWOP

ON THE OTHER HAND, BARTZ LOOKS LIKE HE'S HAVING A HARD TIME.

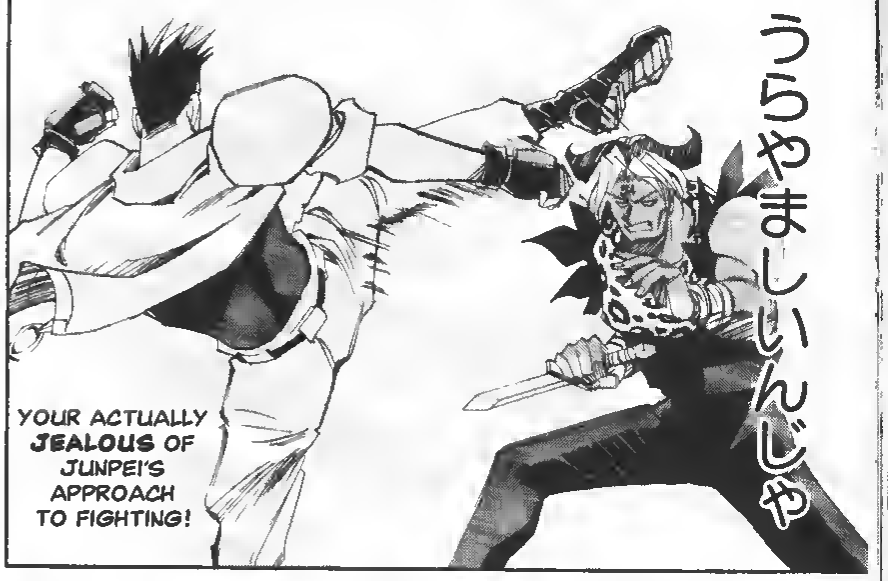
BARTZ! YOU...
HUFF
HUFF
I REJECT IT!

BWOOSH
THAT'S FOR FOOLS AND WEAKLINGS!
HUFF
"FIGHTING THAT YOUR OPPONENT MAY LIVE"?

HUFF
AND I REJECT IT!
SAITOH'S REALLY GETTIN' INTO IT TODAY.

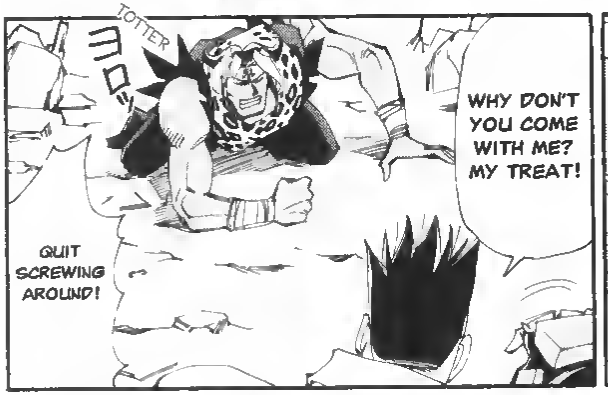
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S ACTUALLY ENJOYING HIMSELF.
BUT ...
Junpei! Quit following the rules!

KA-BAM
BARTZ!


うらやましいんじゃ
YOUR ACTUALLY JEALOUS OF JUNPEI'S APPROACH TO FIGHTING!

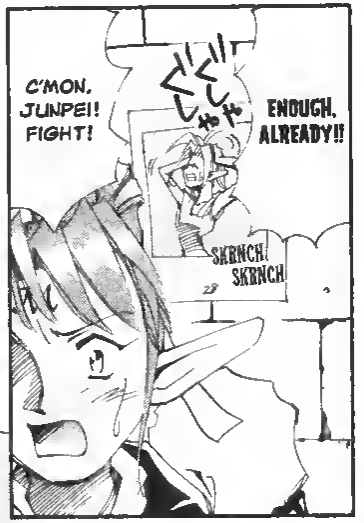
SHWP
DO YOU HEAR ME? I REJECT IT!

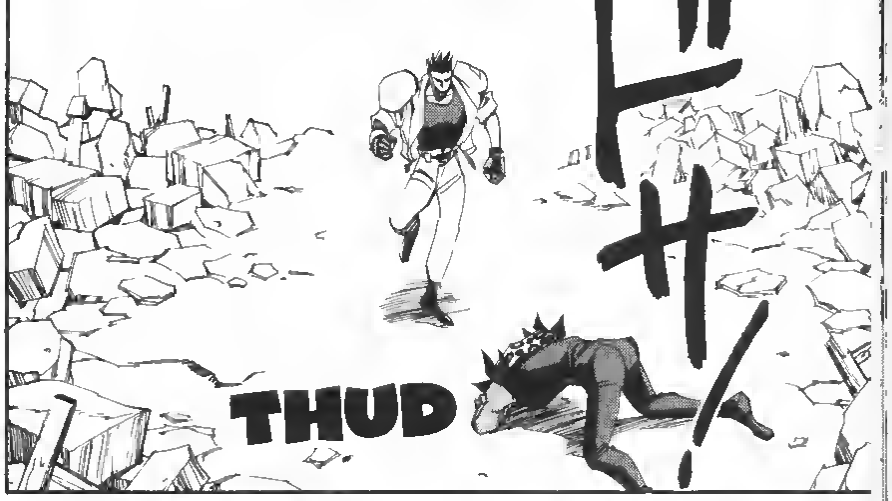
THEY ONLY MAKE FIFTY SERVINGS, SO YOU'VE GOTTA GET THERE FAST!
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?

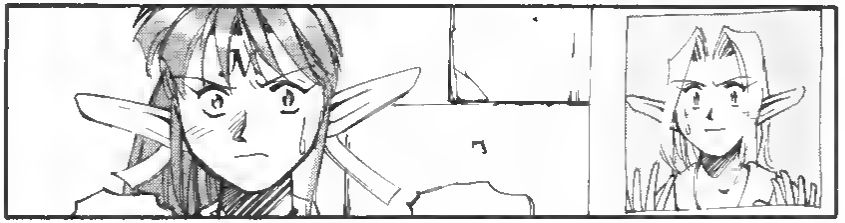

TOTTER
ヨロッ
QUIT SCREWING AROUND!
WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH ME? MY TREAT!

...

THIS MUST BE SO PAINFUL FOR BARTZ...
これじゃバーツの心が……


C'MON, JUNPEI! FIGHT!
じゅんぺい
ENOUGH, ALREADY!!
SKRNCH SKRNCH


THUD

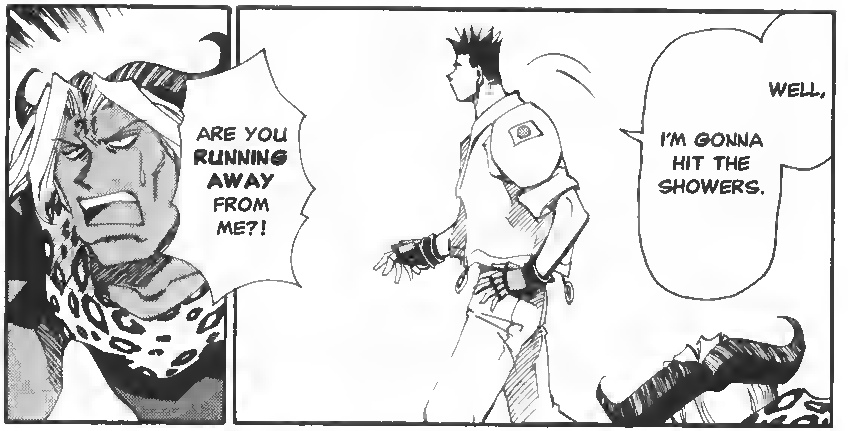


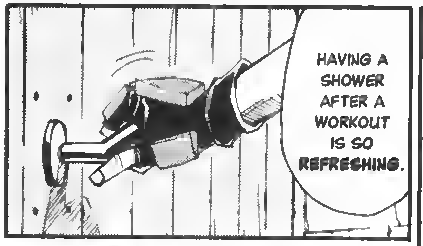
SKSH
I'VE GOTTA HURRY OVER TO GINZA AND GET ME SOME EGGPLANT CURRY.
NAAH, I'M DONE FOR TODAY.

HUFF
IT'S NOT OVER YET.
PHEW!

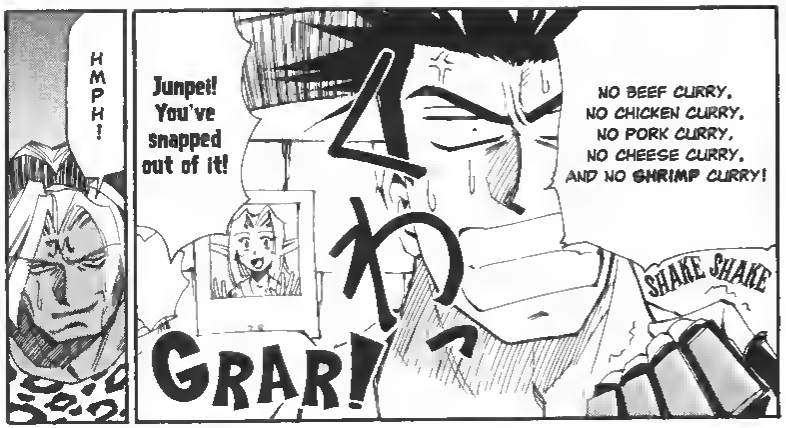
WHAT?!

JUNPEI!
RUMBLE
GWORRR
ゴオオオオ・・・


ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY FROM ME?!
WELL, I'M GONNA HIT THE SHOWERS.


HAVING A SHOWER AFTER A WORKOUT IS SO REFRESHING.

SKRKK
CREAKK
CRK
ギギ

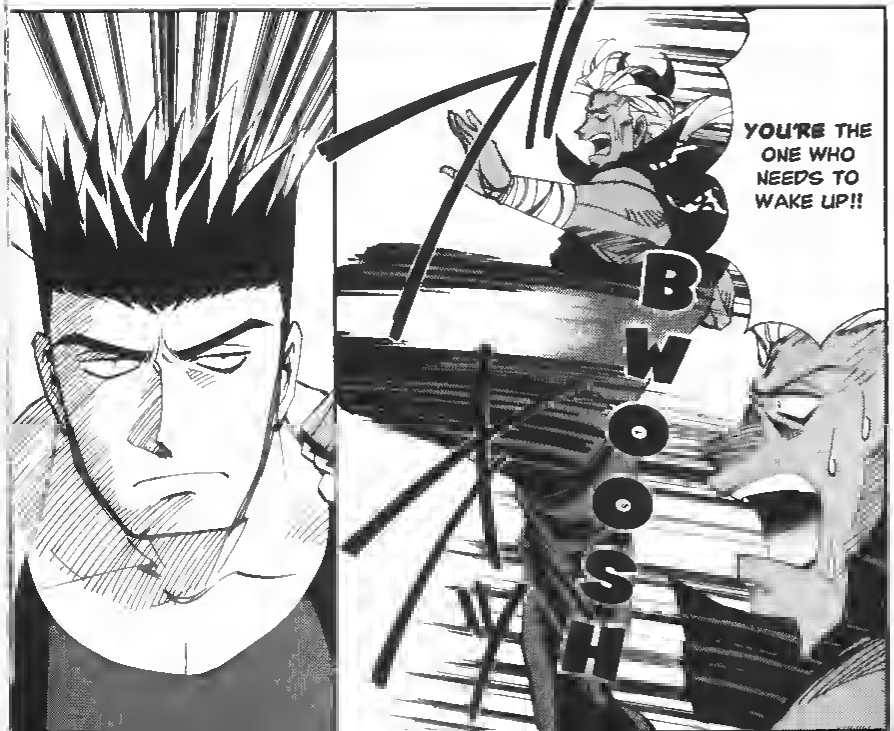

HMPH!
Junpei! You've snapped out of it!
NO BEEF CURRY, NO CHICKEN CURRY, NO PORK CURRY, NO CHEESE CURRY, AND NO SHRIMP CURRY!
SHAKE SHAKE
GRAR!

Junpei! He's been trying to KILL you!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I THOUGHT THIS GUY WAS SAITOH!
できることならバーツを救いたい
I JUST WISH WE COULD SAVE BARTZ...
....
Alright! This match is OVER!

What?!
YOU'RE WRONG.
NO.

REFRESHED, SOMEHOW.
MY HEAD FEELS...
AND THERE AIN'T NO EGGPLANT CURRY!
パラ
CRUMBLE
YOU AIN'T SAITOH! THIS AIN'T JAPAN!
...!!

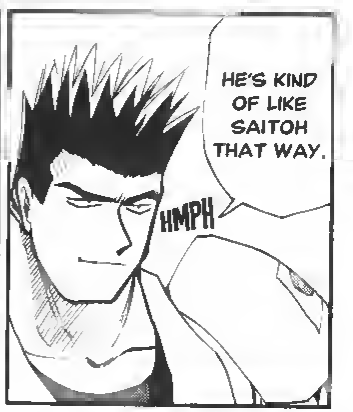
TSWSH
LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE WAKEUP CALL.


YOU'RE THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO WAKE UP!!
BWOOSH

I COULD TELL FROM OUR MATCH.
HE WASN'T REALLY TRYIN' TO KILL ME.

JUNPEI!
淳平……

...?!


HE'S KIND OF LIKE SAITOH THAT WAY.
HMPH

HMPH. THAT AGAIN, HUH?

YOU ASSHOLE! I'M DEAD SERIOUS!

WHAT?!

?!
JUNPEI!!
BWEFF
Junpei!!
Junpei, get up!

THWOMP!
?!

LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE WAKEUP CALL.
YOU'RE DEAD!
BWSSH!!!
ARE YOU MOCKING ME?!
I'M A MERCENARY! YOU THINK I'M GONNA PASS UP THIS CHANCE?!
GLENCH
.....

He's not moving!
HE'S ALRIGHT. IT'S JUST A CONCUSSION. THERE'S NO PERMANENT DAMAGE.
THE REAL PROBLEM IS WITH BARTZ.
WHY DID YOU LET YOUR GUARD DOWN?!
WHY...

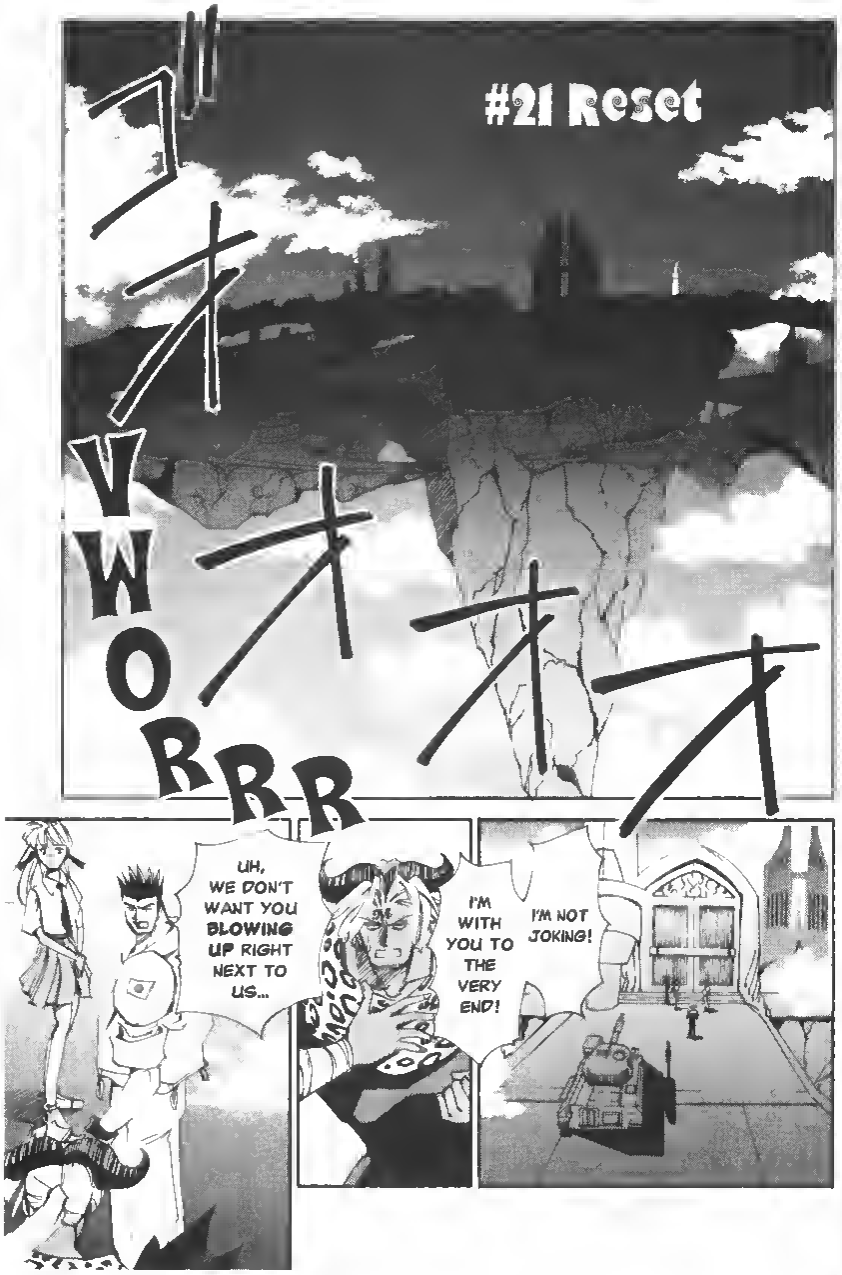
RAAARRRR!

TREMBLE
ARGH
...
AURGH
...

OH!
GIVE A MESSAGE TO DAWN FOR ME.
SCUFF
MASTER BARTZ! WELCOME BACK!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHAT?!
I WON'T BE REQUIRING PAYMENT.
I WANT HER TO CANCEL MY CONTRACT.

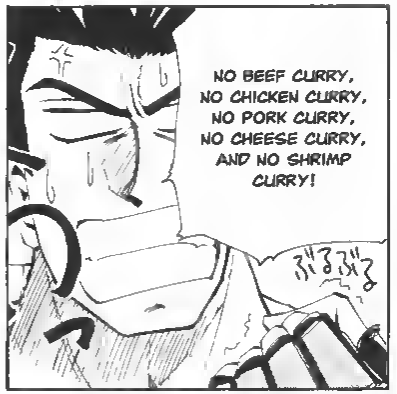
I COULDN'T KILL MY ENEMY.
I DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A MERCENARY.
?!
MADAME DAWN WILL BE OUTRAGED! SHE'LL KILL YOU!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING ?!
WHAT?!

CRAKK CRAKK
LIKE DAWN, FOR EXAMPLE.
BUT IT SEEMS THAT THEIR JOB IS TO HUNT ELVES!
MASTER BARTZ. WHO ARE THOSE PEOPLE BEHIND YOU?
I DON'T KNOW THAT MUCH ABOUT THEM...



making of #20

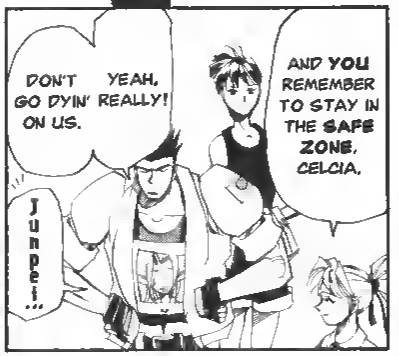
I love curry I even love to DRAW it. I get excited just writing dialogue about curry I cut and pasted my favorite scene from #20 on the night. I wanted to add pork cutlet curry, mutton curry and egg curry to the line as well. I'm serious



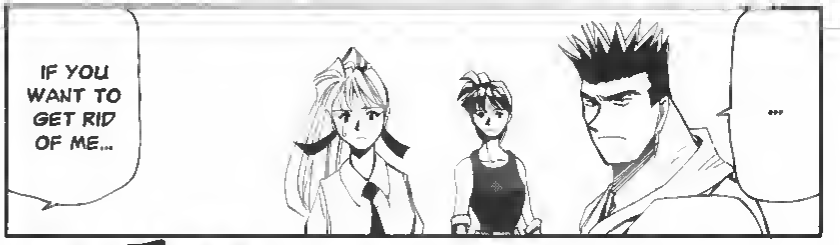
WELL THEN,
LET'S GO STRIP DAWN!
WHUP
ぶるん
WHUP
.....
シュー
ESIOOO

our top priority is to get you back to Japan.
Ritsuko! Airi! Remember,

EVEN IF WE GET ALL THE SPELL FRAGMENTS, WE CAN'T GET BACK TO JAPAN WITHOUT YOU.
Fine!
Now I get it!


AND YOU REMEMBER TO STAY IN THE SAFE ZONE, CELCIA.
DON'T GO DYIN' ON US.
YEAH, REALLY!
JUNPEI!!

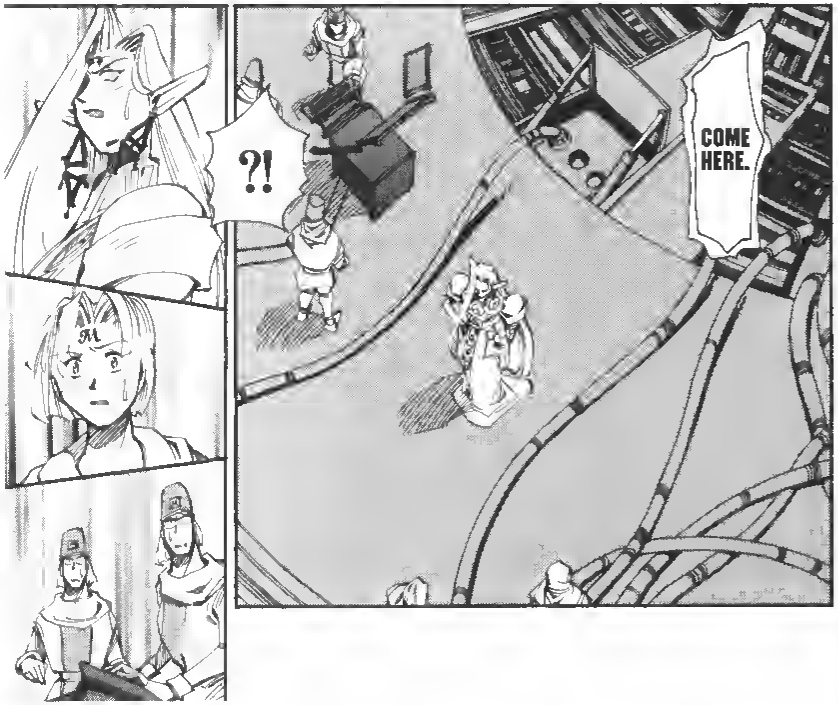
I CAN'T TURN BACK NOW!
HEAR ME OUT, JUNPEI!
I'VE FINALLY LEARNED TO FIGHT FOR PEOPLE, NOT FOR MONEY.


IF YOU WANT TO GET RID OF ME...
...

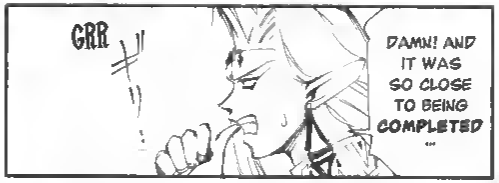
ドゴッ
CRAK
THWOP
SGRASH
YOU'LL HAVE TO DO IT BY FORCE!!

NO, THE REAL PROBLEM IS THE SUMMONER WHO BROUGHT THEM TO THIS WORLD.
HMM. WE CAN'T TARGET THEM WITH THE STAR MAP...

YES, MA'AM.
FWIP
SIENNA.
READ THEIR FORTUNES! TELL ME IF THEY'RE ALIVE OR DEAD!


?!
COME HERE.

I CAN'T FIND THE PROBLEM! I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.
WITHOUT THE STAR MAP, WE'RE HELPLESS!
FIX IT, QUICKLY !!

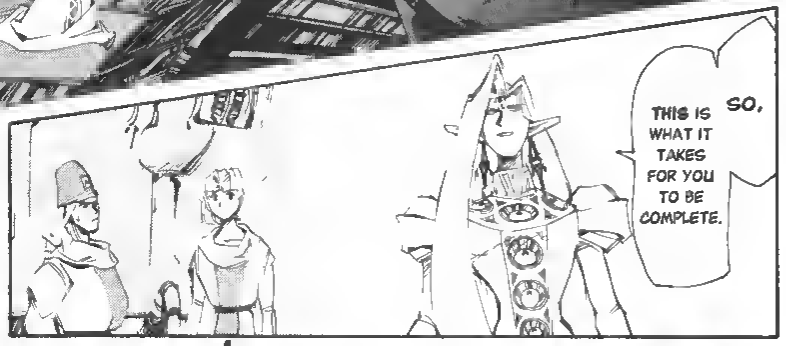

GRR
DAMN! AND IT WAS SO CLOSE TO BEING COMPLETED ...

THWOP
MADAME DAWN! JUST BEFORE THE EXPLOSION, WE OBTAINED A DESCRIPTION OF THE ALIENS!
JUST THE FACT THAT THOSE ALIENS SURVIVED THE EXPLOSION DISPLEASES ME!

THEY DON'T LOOK ANY DIFFERENT FROM REGULAR HUMANS...
FWP
ONE MAN AND TWO WOMEN.

WELL.

WHAT I LACK IS A PHYSICAL BODY.
YOU AHO I MUST MERGE. THEH,
WE CAN TRULY CONQUER TRIS WORLD.


SO,
THIS IS WHAT IT TAKES FOR YOU TO BE COMPLETE.

BWOOF

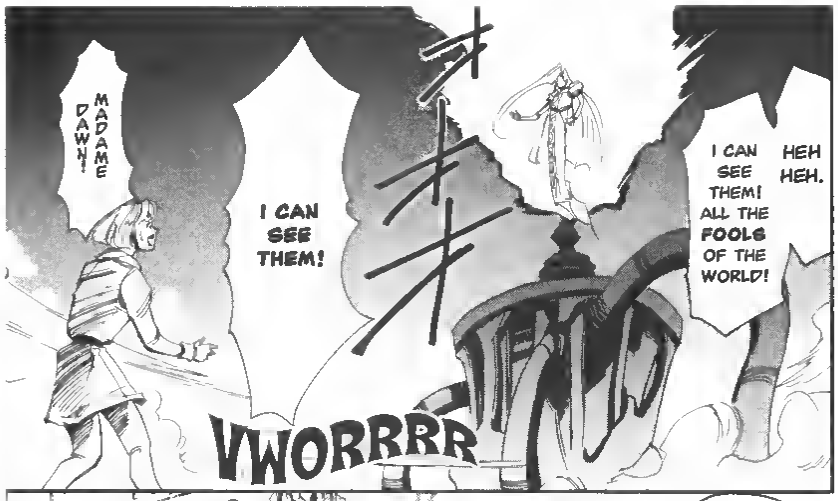
MADAME DAWN.

SHWIP
INTER-ESTING.

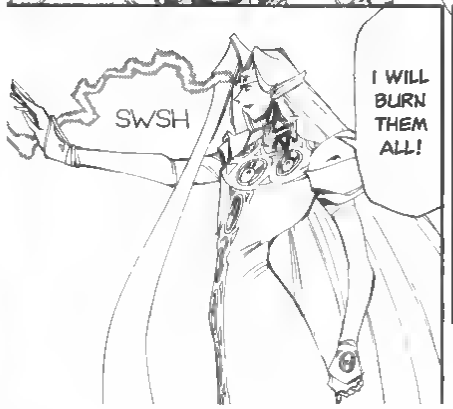
COME. BE ONE WITH ME.

THE STAR MAP IS TALKING!

WH-WHAT?!


MADAME DAWN!
I CAN SEE THEM!
VWORRRR
I CAN SEE THEM! ALL THE FOOLS OF THE WORLD!
HEH HEH.

SIXTY, SEVENTY.. PERHAPS EVEN ONE HUNDRED MILLION!
CRETINS! THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM TRYING TO LOCATE ME.


SWSH
I WILL BURN THEM ALL!

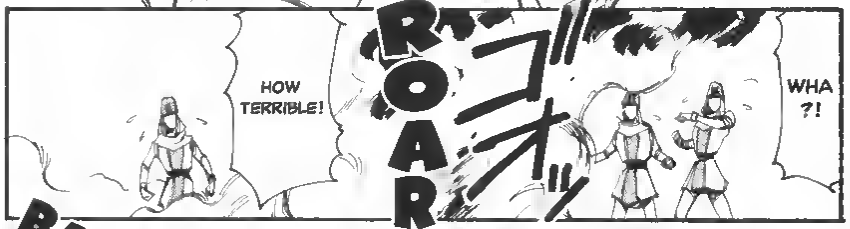
...

.....!
THIS IS THE POWER OF THE STAR MAP!
TH-

BAMM!
ゴゴゴン
RRUMBLE
ゴゴゴ
RRUMBLE
BA-KOOM!
ゴゴゴ
MADAME DAWN!
THE TWO BILLION MOLD WE COLLECTED IS FOR OUR RESEARCH, SO THAT WE CAN CREATE OUR OWN SUPERIOR LIFE FORM!
YOU SHOULD NOT WASTE THEM!
BURN, BURN, BURN!!
ファァ
BURN!
HEH HEH HEH
ARGH!
ゴゴゴ
BWOOM!
WAAA!
AIEE!
……
LET'S BE CLEAR …
TO CREATE OUR ETERNAL CAPITAL.
BUT I THOUGHT THAT CONQUERING THE WORLD WAS JUST PART OF OUR PLAN.
I AM RULER OF THIS WORLD!
ENOUGH!

!!
DIE!
BWOOF

WE'VE CREATED A DEMON!
SHE'S A DEMON.


HOW TERRIBLE!
ROAR
WHA ?!

BA-BAM!
WAUGH!
BE GONE, ALL OF YOU!
YOU ANNOY ME!
ARGH!
BWOOF

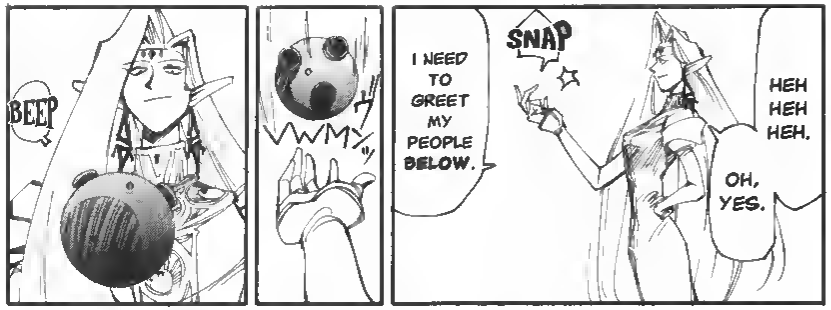
IT'S BETTER FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD TO REMAIN IGNORANT, THEY'RE EASIER TO CONTROL THAT WAY
ALL THAT CONCERNS ME IS THAT I ALONE AM ALL-POWERFUL.

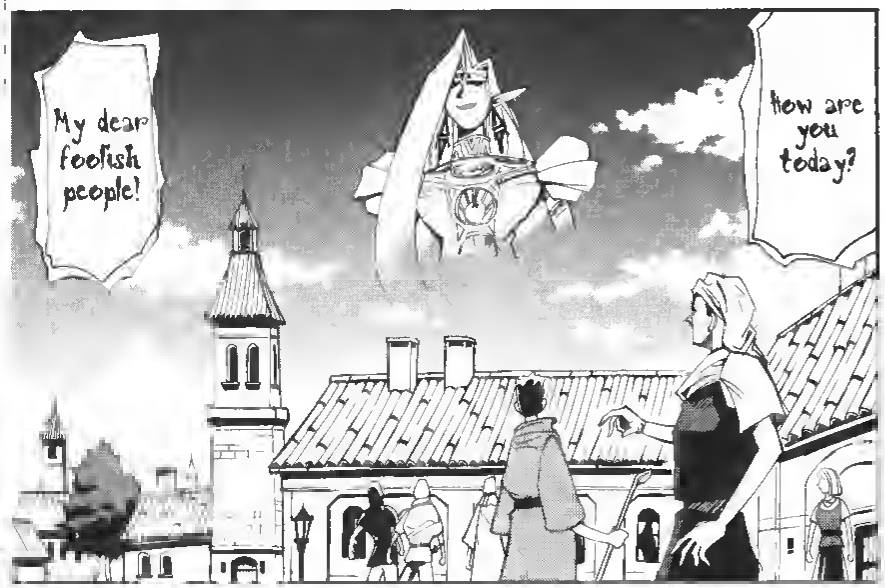
MADAME DAWN!

M...

YES, I CAN EVEN READ YOUR MIND!
HEH HEH HEH.

!!
YOU INTEND TO KILL ME WITH YOUR SWORD.
HM! SO YOU WOULD STAND AGAINST ME-

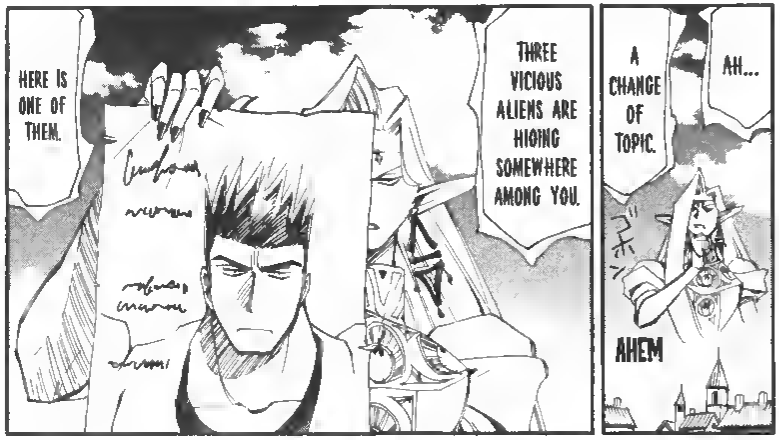

BEEP
I NEED TO GREET MY PEOPLE BELOW.
SNAP
HEH HEH HEH.
OH, YES.

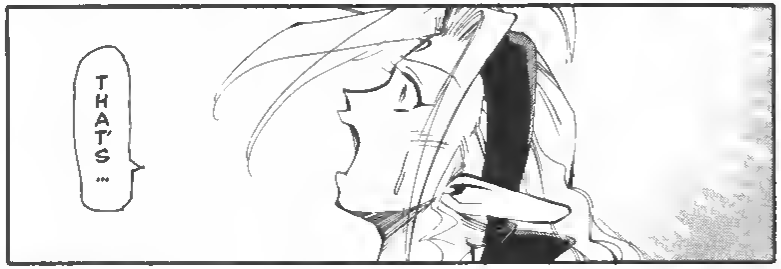

My dear foolish people!
How are you today?

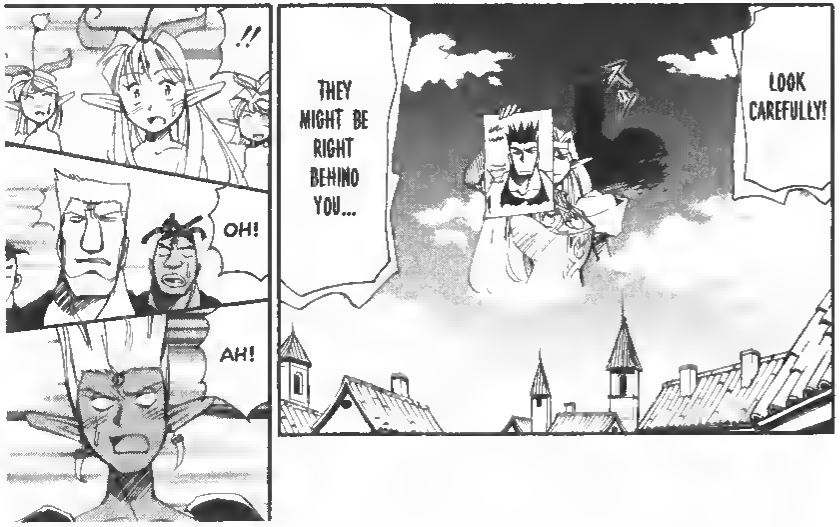
.....
I'M GONNA KILL HER.
SHE MAKES ME SICK TO MY STOMACH.
DAMN.
THAT'S...
OH!

MWAHAHAHA!
HEH HEH HEH.
I HAVE NO USE FOR TEESEN, OR ANY MERCE-NARIES!
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
RRUMBLE

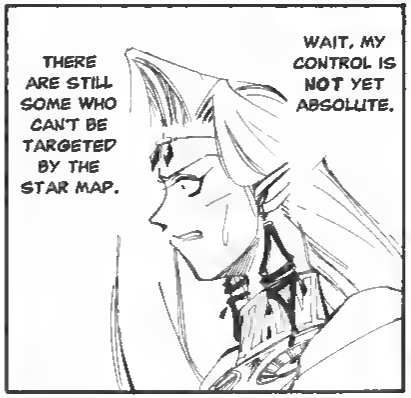
ゴオオオオオ
GORRRR
SCUFF


HERE IS ONE OF THEM.
THREE VICIOUS ALIENS ARE HIDING SOMEWHERE AMONG YOU.
A CHANGE OF TOPIC.
AH...
AHEM


THAT'S ...

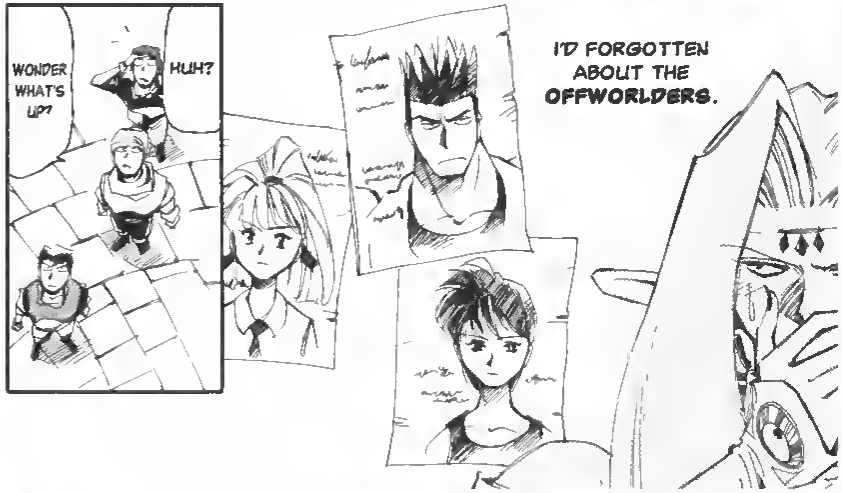

!!
OH!
AH!
THEY MIGHT BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU...
LOOK CAREFULLY!

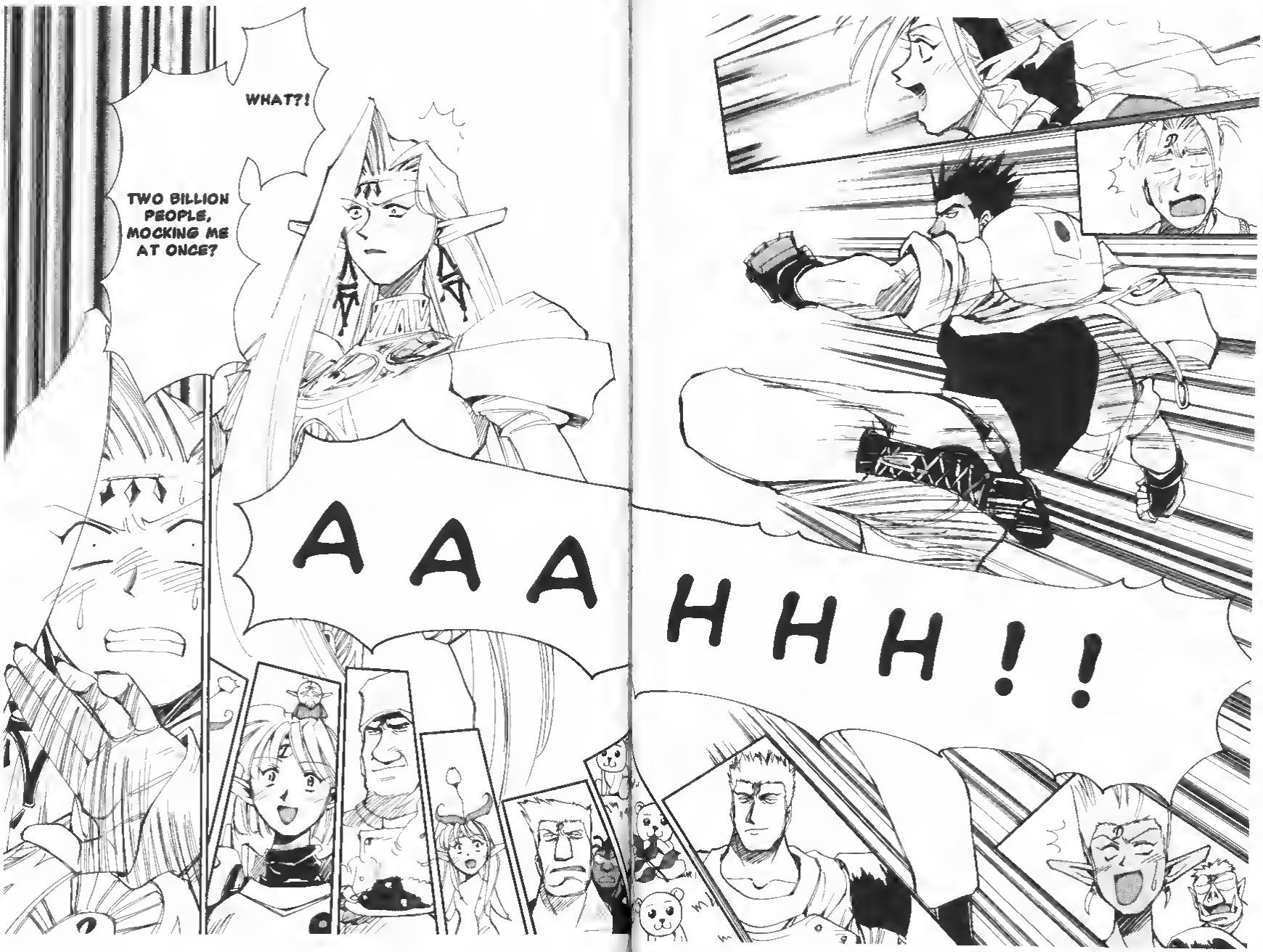
NO... MORE LIKE 1.6 BILLION.
I'M HEARING COMPLAINTS FROM 1.5 BILLION PEOPLE.
HEH HEH HEH
OH DEAR. I SEEM TO BE QUITE HATED.


THERE ARE STILL SOME WHO CAN'T BE TARGETED BY THE STAR MAP.
WAIT, MY CONTROL IS NOT YET ABSOLUTE.

BUT REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE ALL UNDER MY...
WELL, I SHALL ALLOW YOU THAT FREEDOM.

OH!


WONDER WHAT'S UP?
HUH?
I'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE OFFWORLDERS.


WHAT?!
TWO BILLION PEOPLE, MOCKING ME AT ONCE?
AAAHHH!!

THE ALIEN!
JUNPEI!
オオオオ
WORRRR
FWWSH
!!

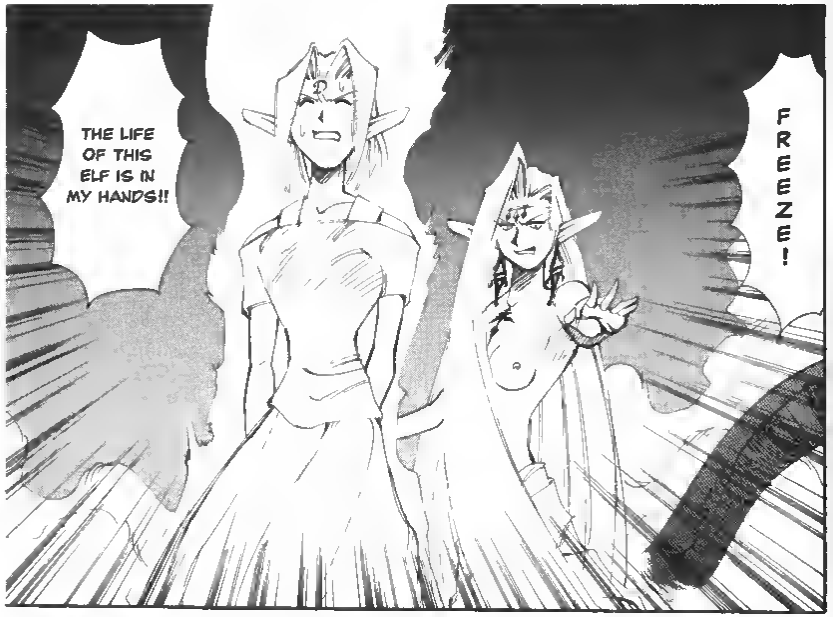
BAI
KRAK

おおおおお
WHOAA
WOW!
DAMN!
TONK!
CRK
ゴッ
BWPF
AH!
SHE'S GONE!
WHAT WAS THAT SYMBOL I JUST SAW?
YEAH, MORE!
HEY! SHOW US MORE!

!!
BAIBOOM!

SO THAT IS THEIR SUMMONER!
PAGE 28! FORCED DIS-CHARGE!
WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THIS OLD BAT OF AN ELF?
K-TNK
SHLORP
WHAT?!

SPELL FRAG-MENT?
THE FOURTH SPELL FRAGMENT HAS BEEN FOUND!
JUNPEI! HOW DID YOU GET UP THERE?!
JIMPO!
ONE MORE FRAG-MENT AND WE CAN GO BACK TO JAPAN!
YEAH!
I DON'T THINK WE CAN, THOUGH.
WHAT?
I JUMP-ED!
IT MUST BE THE SUMMONING SPELL FOR THEM TO GET BACK.
I SUSPECTED IT WAS A PART OF SOMETHING
A SPELL FRAGMENT. I SEE...


FREEZE!
THE LIFE OF THIS ELF IS IN MY HANDS!!

YOU OLD HAG!
YOUR POWER WON'T WORK AGAINST US!
GIVE IT UP!

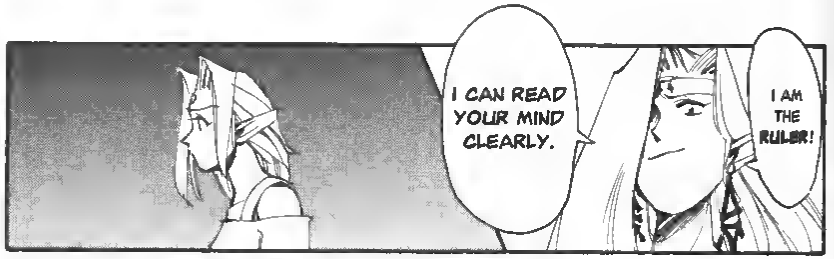
WHAT?!
?!
THERE IS A WAY THAT I CAN BE RID OF YOU.
YOU'RE WRONG ...

WHOA!
フルッ
BWSH
CELCIA!
JUNPEI!
DAMN IT!
ドサッ
THUD

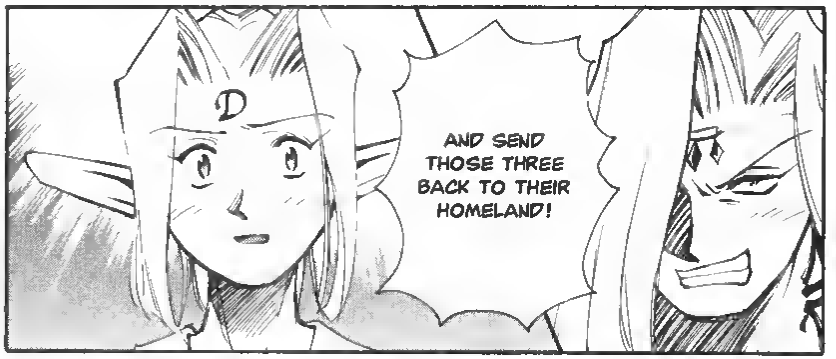
DAMN!
WHEN IT COMES TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD, I HAVE THE POWER OF A GOD!
IT WON'T MOVE!
MY BODY ...

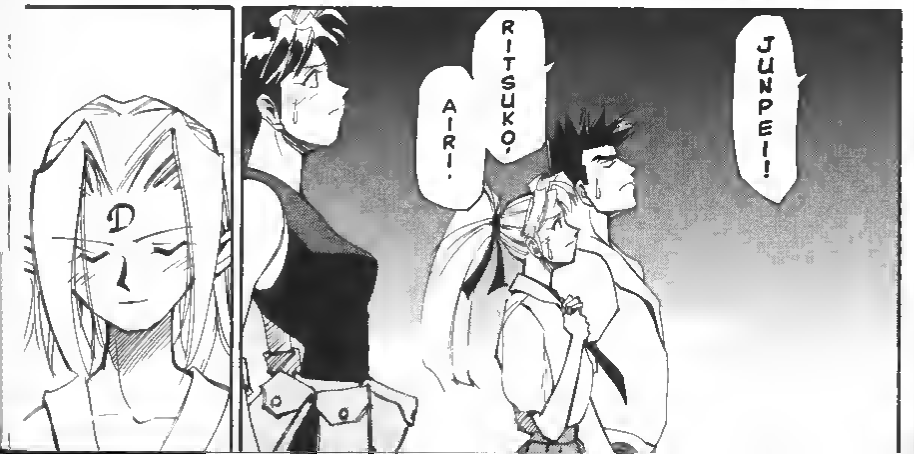
THE SPELL IS... COMPLETE?!
WAS IT DAWN?!
SOMEONE TOOK THE SPELL FRAGMENTS!
OW.
WAUGH!
PWSSH
WE'VE SPENT SO LONG LOOKING FOR THEM... AND SHE FOUND THEM ALL IN A SECOND!
WITH MY CURRENT POWER, COLLECTING THE FRAGMENTS IS CHILD'S PLAY.
THE ACTUAL SPELL, HOWEVER, MUST BE CAST BY THE ORIGINAL SUMMONER.
YOU UNDERSTAND, ELF?

I'LL USE THIS SUMMONING SPELL TO SEND YOU BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM!
SHOOOM
IT CAN'T BE...
WHAT?!

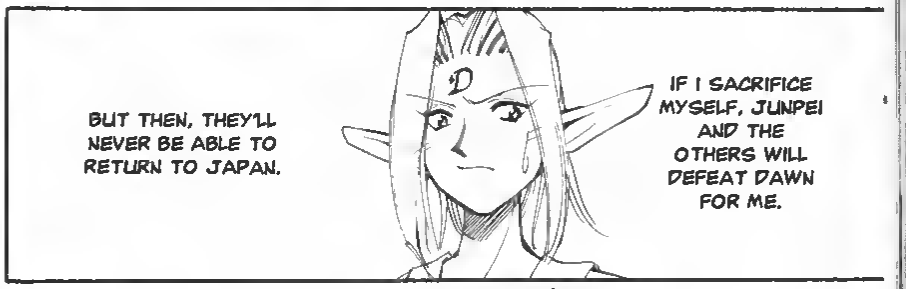

I CAN READ YOUR MIND CLEARLY.
I AM THE RULER!

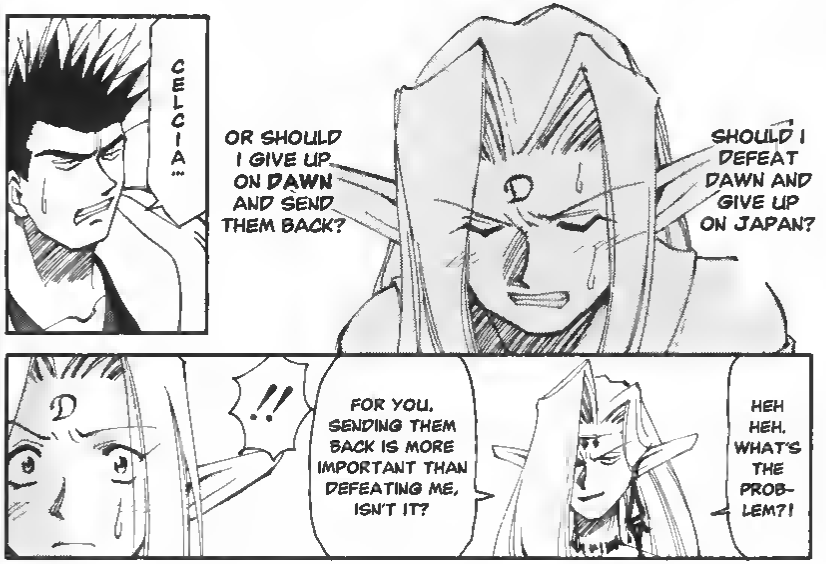
BE TRUE TO YOURSELF ...


AND SEND THOSE THREE BACK TO THEIR HOMELAND!


JUNPEI!
RITSUKO, AIRI!

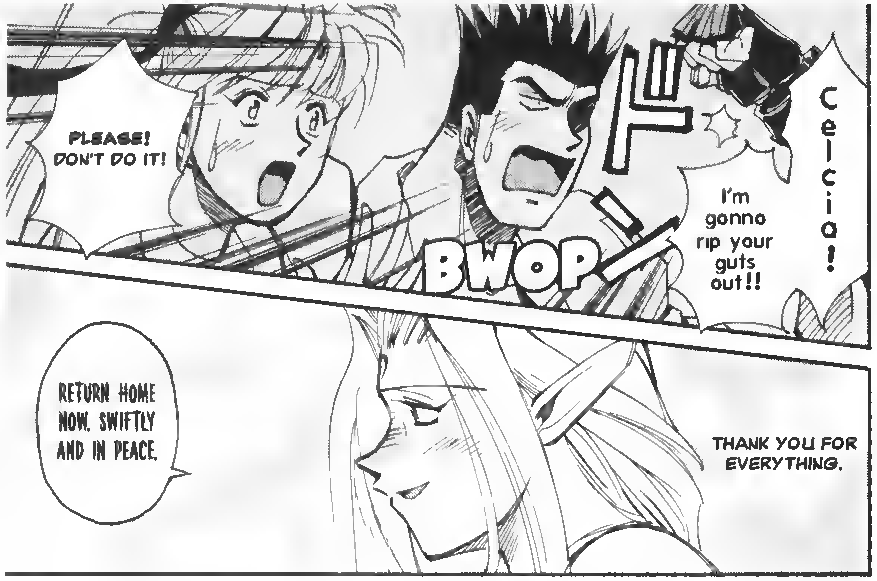
NOW SEND THESE THREE BACK WHERE THEY CAME FROM!

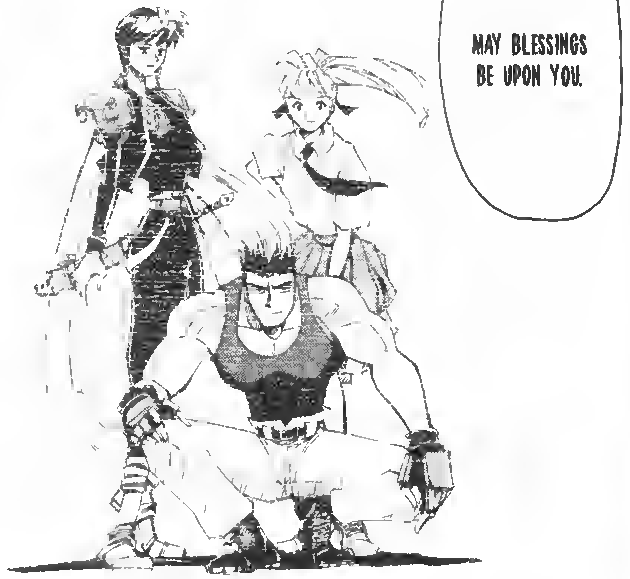

BUT THEN, THEY'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO RETURN TO JAPAN.
IF I SACRIFICE MYSELF, JUNPEI AND THE OTHERS WILL DEFEAT DAWN FOR ME.


CELCIA...
OR SHOULD I GIVE UP ON DAWN AND SEND THEM BACK?
SHOULD I DEFEAT DAWN AND GIVE UP ON JAPAN?
!!
FOR YOU, SENDING THEM BACK IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN DEFEATING ME, ISN'T IT?
HEH HEH. WHAT'S THE PROB-LEM?!

.....
BUT...
WHAT ?!
オオオ
RIO RAFAEL
RIO RAFAEL
ESTIE DIAROW
VWORRR
BAP
ドド
IDIOT!
YOU SUMMONED US HERE AGAINST OUR WILL, AND NOW YER JUST SENDIN' US BACK AGAIN?!
BAP
ドド
AIEE!
HUH?
WOMM

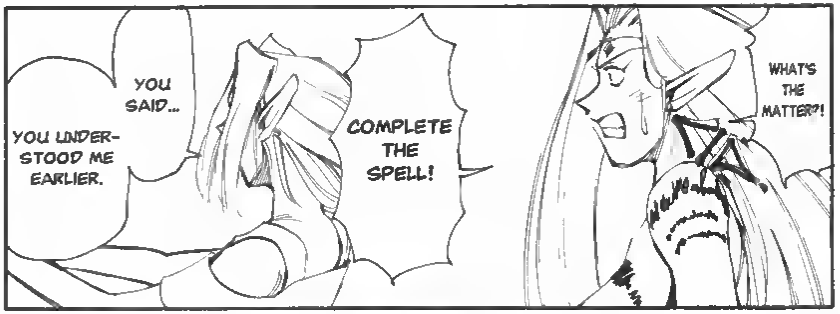
THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK.
I'M SENDING YOU BACK TO JAPAN.


PLEASE! DON'T DO IT!
BWOP
Celcia!
I'm gonna rip your guts out!!
RETURN HOME NOW, SWIFTLY AND IN PEACE.
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING.

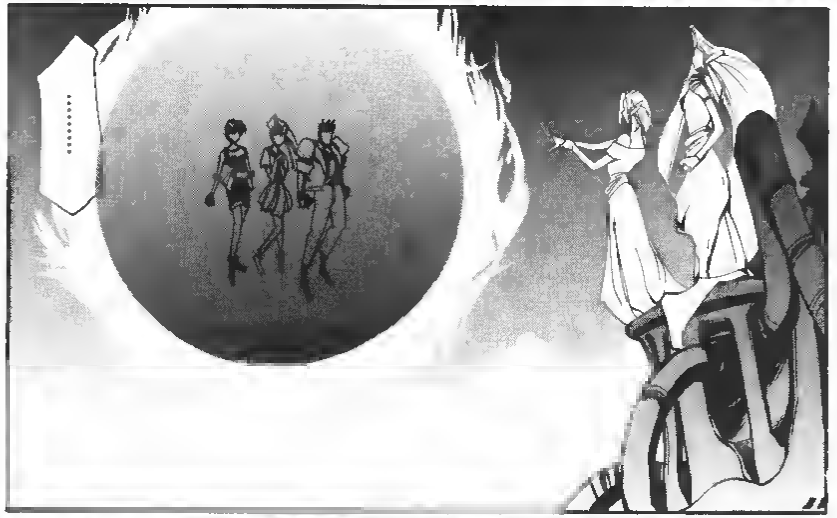

MAY BLESSINGS BE UPON YOU.

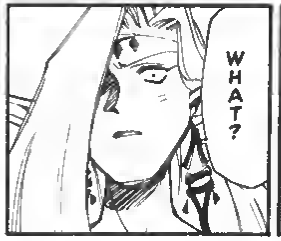
GOODBYE.

YOUR SPIRITS, WHICH I HATH SUMMONED, I NOW RELEASE!
I OFFER MY GRATITUDE FOR YOUR COOPERATION.
HALLOWED STRANGERS FROM ANOTHER WORLD,
IT'S NOT RIGHT TO INVOLVE YOU ANY LONGER.
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T GIVE YOU A GOING-AWAY PARTY. BUT THIS IS FOR THE BEST.

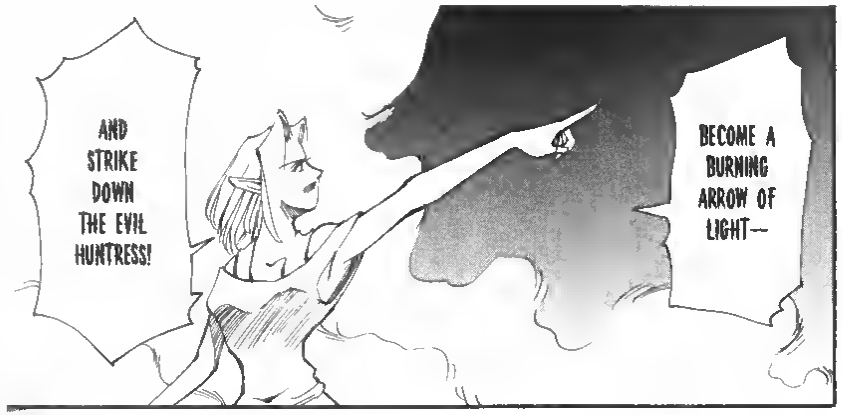


I... DON'T WANT TO SEND THEM BACK!

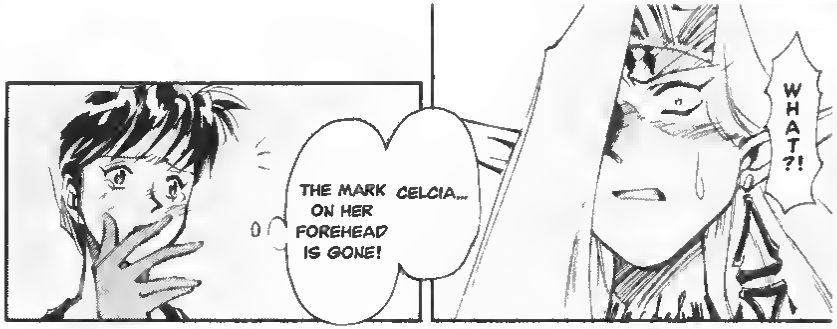


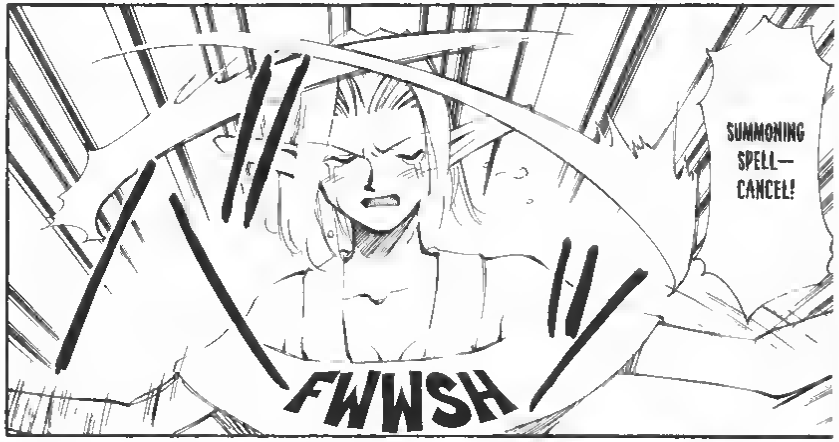


I WANT TO BE WITH THEM FOREVER!


AND STRIKE DOWN THE EVIL HUNTRESS!
BECOME A BURNING ARROW OF LIGHT--

HMPH. YOU CAN'T EVEN READ MY MINE!
SO MUCH FOR YOUR SO-CALLED "POWER."
FALSE UNIVERSE!
FALSE STARS!
WHY ?!
DIE!
WHY WON'T YOU DIE?
I WILL DESTROY ALL OF MY HOSTAGES!
BWSH
HEH
SUCH INSO-LENCE!
YOU ESCAPED MY UNIVERSE?!

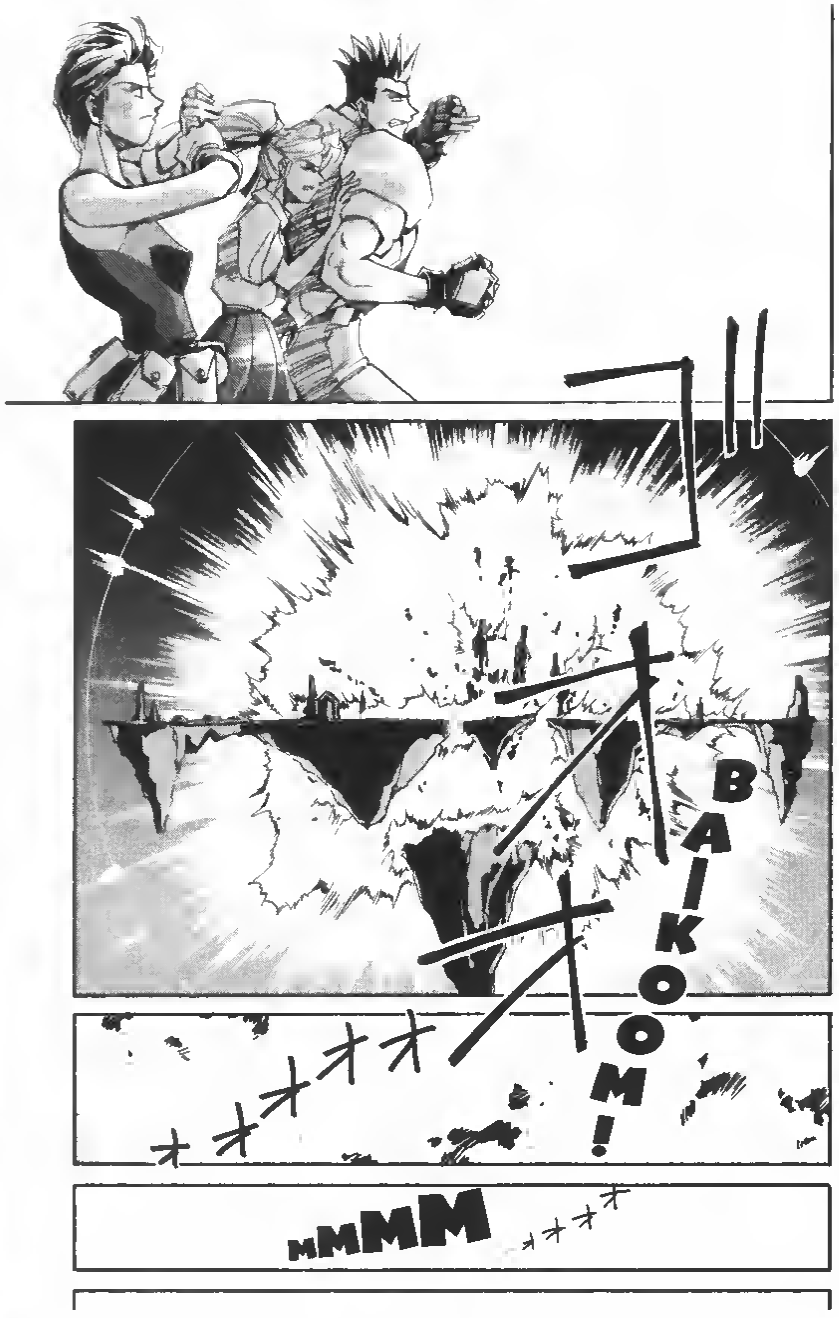

WHAT?!
THE MARK CELCIA... ON HER FOREHEAD IS GONE!


SUMMONING SPELL— CANCEL!
FWWSH

I CALL UPON THEE.
O, STARS OF THE INFINITE HEAVENS.

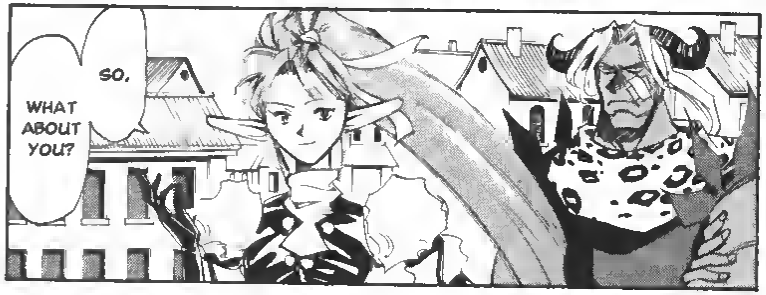
WORTH-LESS ELF!
DIE!!

WHA?!
.....


BAIKOOM!
オオオオオ
MMMM
オオオオ

!!
THE STARS...?!
BAIBWSH

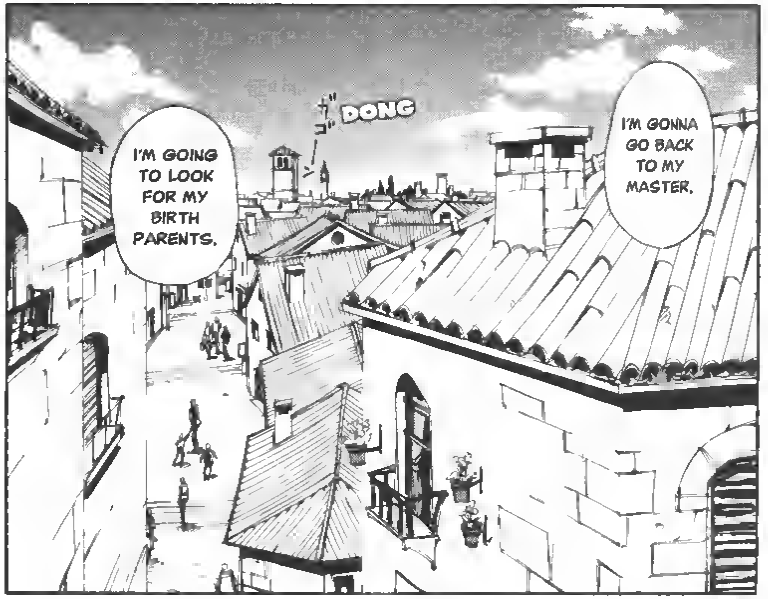
DONG
DONG
DONG


SO,
WHAT ABOUT YOU?

.....?!

MMN
FIRST, WE'VE GOTTA WAKE UP CELCIA.

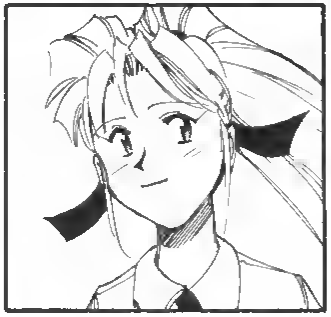
I'M NOT REALLY SURE.
WELL,

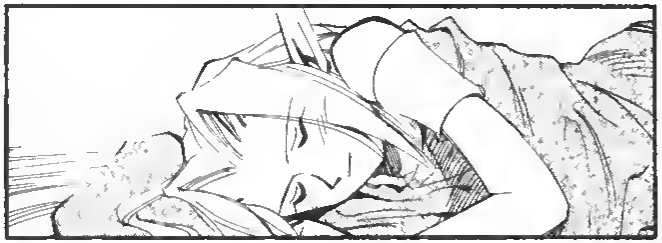

DONG
I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR MY BIRTH PARENTS.
I'M GONNA GO BACK TO MY MASTER.

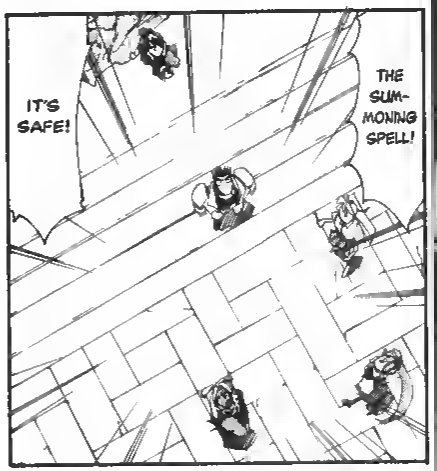
KRA-PAK!

ZING
WHICH MEANS...
IT SPLIT INTO FIVE PIECES.

HM,
WELL DONE.






IT'S SAFE!
THE SUM-MONING SPELL!

MUMBLE MUMBLE
SHADDUP.
UHNN...
CELCIA, WAKE UP! GET THAT SPELL BACK!

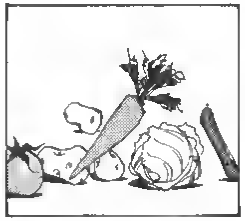
!!
.....
THAT AIN'T WHAT I SAID, YOU IDIOT!
WHO'RE YOU CALLING AN IDIOT, ANY-WAY?!
ROLL

VWMMM
AH!
THAT'S...

VWUP
ぶいるん
ぶいるん
VWUP
WE CAN STILL GET BACK TO JAPAN.
ALL WE GOTTA DO IS STRIP SOME ELVES!
AND FIRST UP IS CELCIA!
RIP
RIP
UH, JUNPEI...
WHAT A LOSER!

BONUS MANGA

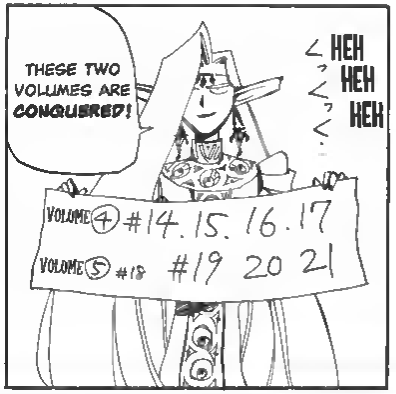
How to Buy Vegetables

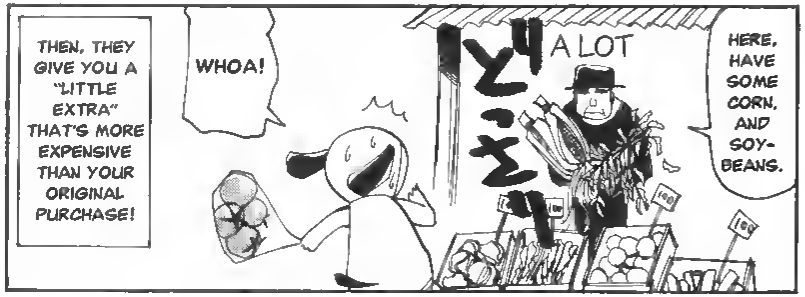


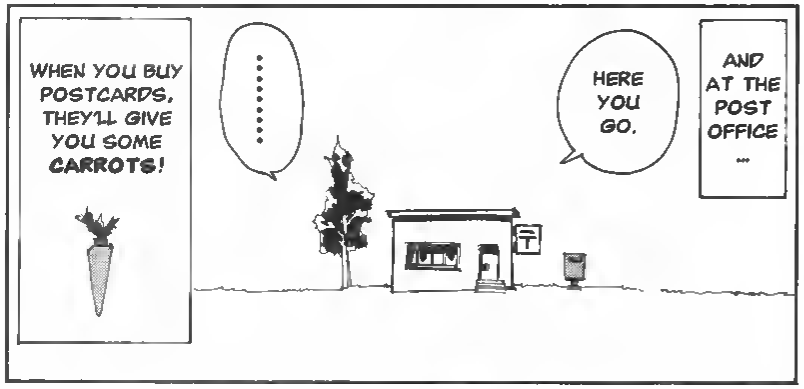
YU YAGAMI

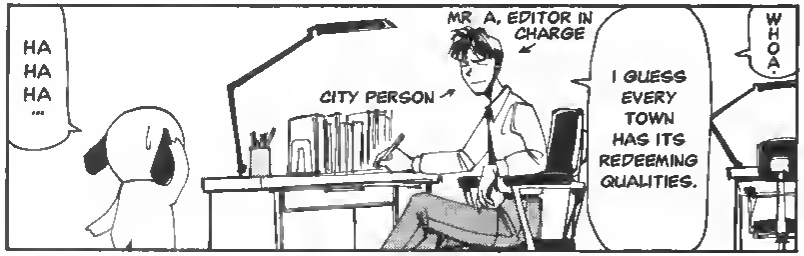
making of #21

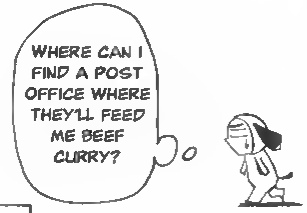
Uh, Junpei! What do you think? I decided to mix things up by writing a looong story, but now it's finally over. The next volume will have five fun-filled chapters—please read them!




THEN, THEY GIVE YOU A "LITTLE EXTRA" THAT'S MORE EXPENSIVE THAN YOUR ORIGINAL PURCHASE!
WHOA!
A LOT
HERE, HAVE SOME CORN, AND SOY-BEANS.







SADLY, YAGAMI DOES NOT LIKE VEGETABLES

FIN